



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Departs for General Assembly Session

NC2609070793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT
26 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid this morning left Cairo for New York, where he will attend the UN General Assembly's [UNGA] 42d session.

Before his departure Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he will meet with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali in order to discuss the Libyan-Western crisis, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to discuss issues pertaining to the Arab region.

'Abd-al-Majid added that he will contact the heads of the delegations attending the UNGA session and discuss with them the possibility of increasing the UN Security Council's membership. He said a demand will be put forward for a permanent Arab seat on the Security Council in line with an Arab League resolution to this effect.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi To Attend UN General Assembly Session

JN2609100593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
26 Sep 93 pp 1, 22

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources have said that Faruq Qaddumi, Abu-al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department and foreign minister of Palestine, who opposes the Gaza-Jericho agreement between the PLO and Israel, will go to New York within the next few days to participate in the current UN session, which is of special importance due to the issues that will be discussed. These include the Middle East issue and the Palestine question, in the light of developments following the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Qaddumi told Palestinian officials in Amman opposed to the Gaza-Jericho accord that his decision to participate in the UN session aims to prevent the U.S.-Israeli attempts to circumvent the national gains realized by the Palestinian people through their struggle and the blood of their martyrs, represented by the international resolutions that condemn the Israeli practices, and to prevent further Palestinian concessions to the Israeli side, especially since the Gaza-Jericho agreement is an agreement that is open to the unknown, and void of any guarantees that will lead to the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate demands.

The sources said that contacts continue between Palestinian officials and the Palestinian mission at the United Nations to prevent the Israeli plans to strip our people of their international gains.

Qaddumi on Objections to PLO-Israel Pact

JN2509091593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
25 Sep 93 p 27

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by Hazim Mubayyidin in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Mubayyidin] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], you attended the Arab League Ministerial Council meeting. Certainly, the Palestinian-Israeli agreement was the most prominent issue discussed at that meeting.

[Qaddumi] The council's position was clear in its final statement, which emphasized that the objective of any talks or agreements is to realize the principle of land for peace, to accelerate progress on all tracks, and to secure the Palestinian refugees' right to return to their homeland. The council emphasized its solidarity with all Arab parties to the peace process. Peace should be comprehensive and just based on the international legitimacy. The council stressed its support for the intifadah of our people in the occupied territories as long as the Israeli occupation continues.

[Mubayyidin] Are you saying that the council has positively assessed the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Qaddumi] I will say that the council views it in a nonnegative manner, and not in a positive manner. I emphasize a nonnegative view.

[Mubayyidin] It is well known that you declared your opposition to the agreement. Some political quarters say that you defended the agreement at the Arab League meeting.

[Qaddumi] I clearly pointed out that we reached this situation as a result of the current Arab conditions; the financial siege following the Gulf war; the famine in the occupied territories, especially in Gaza Strip; and the PLO financial crisis, as some employees have not received their salaries for four months. I recalled that I sent a message to an Arab foreign minister in which I literally said (he began reading the text of a paper before him): I explained to your excellency the deteriorating situation in our occupied territories, which needs quick handling and continuous support from our Arab brothers. Our people are suffering while they are struggling and offering scores of victims, and their establishments are collapsing. I ask about the reason for stopping these resources that they used to receive.

I want to say that we were the first to call for Arab coordination, and you remember that our relations with Egypt and Syria were very bad, and we participated in the

peace process under unfair conditions. I thank Jordan, which provided us with a cover for the Palestinian delegation. The subject of representation was the problem, and had we insisted that the PLO be at the forefront, the process would have been destroyed. I also explained to the council the U.S. bias and the attempt of the current administration to change the rules of the game through the papers it presented. I also explained [Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak] Rabin's measures of besieging Gaza and the West Bank, and isolating Jerusalem.

I do not want to elaborate on the deteriorating Arab situation, but it was the main reason for this agreement, which I opposed and considered a miscalculation.

[Mubayyidin] But you defended it.

[Qaddumi] Never, but it is reality that forced some people to accept the unavoidable evil. I want to emphasize that I am committed to the PLO decision and to work for removing problems within the establishment and within the framework of PLO unity in order to avoid division and infighting among the Palestinian people, and so that the democratic process will be the base that governs our decisions.

[Mubayyidin] Does this mean that you have changed your opinion?

[Qaddumi] No, I have not changed my opinion. I am not one of those who are deceived by sugar-coated promises of huge funds being extended to the Palestinian people. The best proof of this are the promises to the former USSR and Yugoslavia.

[Mubayyidin] How do you see the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the steps that have led to it?

[Qaddumi] The Gaza-Jericho proposal came as a reply to the early empowerment proposal. I explained this at the Beirut meeting that included the five Arab parties [Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and the PLO]. I said that the concept of Israeli withdrawal shows a break in the Israeli ideological taboos, and marks the beginning of relinquishing the concept of Greater Israel. I oppose the agreement, which I knew about only recently, because it does not contain anything about the land for peace formula. Since it is a transitional one, the agreement should have amended measures only. [sentence as published] However, if it touches on essential issues, then it should clarify them so as to avoid misinterpretations. I also believe that the refugee issue must be resolved in accordance with the international legitimacy, especially since it is one of the most important issues. We should not wait for five years either. Moreover, I believe that it is necessary to safeguard the PLO and its foreign representation so that it will continue to uphold the banner of independence and to work for the establishment of the Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

[Mubayyidin] But the agreement was signed under the auspices of the United States and Russia. It has also received a great deal of Arab support.

[Qaddumi] Let me be frank with you. I am not optimistic because I doubt Israel's intentions and because there is no guarantee to this agreement. The United States and Russia were mere witnesses. I believe that there should be an Arab accord to support us, particularly by the five Arab parties with whom we have coordinated from the very beginning. This agreement should enjoy a Palestinian national semi-unanimity. I also would like to note that the agreement is void of any clear reference to the important relationship with Jordan. It is clear that our Palestinian and Jordanian peoples cannot be separated from each other, because they have joint interests.

[Mubayyidin] But the Jordanian Government has welcomed this agreement.

[Qaddumi] I have visited Jordan and met with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan, and Minister of State Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, and stressed to them this fact. The agreement's economic annexes discuss the relationship with Israel, and include no reference to Jordan.

[Mubayyidin] The Jordanian Government has presented working papers to reactivate the Jordanian-Palestinian committees, and proposed the discussion of several issues.

[Qaddumi] I discussed these issues during my visit. Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] completed discussion of these issues with the top officials in Jordan.

[Mubayyidin] You oppose the agreement within the PLO framework. Iraq also opposes it from a different perspective, and you visited Iraq.

[Qaddumi] I visited Iraq on assignment from the leadership and not in my capacity as a one who opposes the agreement. I was there to explain what happened in detail, and I did not ask the Iraqi brothers to take a position because this is something for them to decide. I requested that they help keep the Arab Liberation Front's representative as a member of the PLO Executive Committee to preserve the PLO and its establishments. I did not meet with President Saddam Husayn.

[Mubayyidin] What about Syria?

[Qaddumi] I visited Syria with Abu-'Ammar, and we met with President Hafiz al-Asad in the presence of [Syrian] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar. President al-Asad told us that Syria does not oppose or accept the agreement and that this issue is up to the Palestinian people and their central establishments to decide. He emphasized the importance of Arab coordination and a comprehensive solution. They may have some remarks on the draft agreement, and this necessitates the continuation of dialogue with the brothers in the Syrian leadership.

[Mubayyidin] But you know that one track may make progress before another, particularly the Palestinian track, which has two stages unlike the other tracks.

[Qaddumi] Undoubtedly any progress on any track serves the other tracks, particularly the Palestinian track, but we have to wait so that the signing will take place jointly as we agreed from the beginning. This Arab commitment was one of the reasons that forced me not to attend and not to sign.

[Mubayyidin] In spite of this opposition you are still an Executive Committee member and at the top of Palestinian diplomacy.

[Qaddumi] As a Palestinian official, I feel that my task is first to preserve the PLO and to realize national consensus in order to maintain the Palestinian objectives to which I committed myself at the Palestine national Council [PNC]. As a secretary of the Fatah Movement Central Committee, one of my duties is to preserve the unity of this movement and to work with other Palestinian factions in order to prevent Palestinian infighting and to preserve Palestinian unity.

[Mubayyidin] Some people speak about a tripartite confederation of Jordan, Palestine, and Israel.

[Qaddumi] This talk does not reflect the current situation in the Arab region, and contradicts the unity of Arab fate I have believed in since childhood.

[Mubayyidin] But what if this is a U.S. decision, and the United States decides to impose what it wants?

[Qaddumi] Situations change, and developments continue to take place. I am confident that the future will bear the continuation of a single superpower that controls the world, that cooperation and competition will replace conflict among the big powers, and that the world will witness the emergence of a superpower different from those we have seen in the past. Greater Syria was an integrated unit but was divided by the Sykes-Picot Agreement into four entities. Anyhow, the future generations will decide their position on what is going on and even what happened.

[Mubayyidin] Do you think that, in light of recent developments in the Russian Federation, if [Ruslan] Khasbulatov wins it will be the beginning of a return to a bipolar system with two powers who compete for influence in the world?

[Qaddumi] There will be no return to the bipolar system as we knew it. We need a long time to see the results after things become stable. I think that all that is going on represents an historic birth that will be witnessed by Europe, Asia, and Africa in particular, and in Latin America as well. It is impossible to predict the shape of these changes or their final situation.

[Mubayyidin] Some time ago, Jordan proposed a rereading of the United Kingdom Plan.

[Qaddumi] I am committed to the PNC resolution calling for a confederation with our brothers in Jordan. I am not authorized to discuss any other plan.

[Mubayyidin] You are the leader of the Palestinian diplomacy that should defend the agreement as being a Palestinian decision. Although you are an opponent, you have defended the agreement.

[Qaddumi] I only defended the concept of Israeli withdrawal and our acceptance of it. I explained the circumstances that led to this agreement. I also call for making this withdrawal a bridge on which we cross to our national objectives.

[Mubayyidin] Do you think it was possible to reach a better agreement?

[Qaddumi] I do not think so for many reasons, the foremost of which are the imbalance of powers and the U.S. Administration's bias. We should work to improve our conditions through Arab solidarity and coordination and through bolstering international support for our national demands.

[Mubayyidin] But this solidarity could not achieve any of the Palestinian objectives in the past.

[Qaddumi] I believe this international support is aimed at safeguarding the interests of these states. Therefore, we share this demand. The recent changes necessitate that the world, particularly Europe, should bolster their relations with the Arab world in order to safeguard their interests, especially since Israel, as a state that serves a specific purpose, has lost a great deal of its strategic importance. Among Israel's tasks were protecting the Suez Canal and the West's oil interests, and striking at the Arab-Soviet friendship and the Arab liberation movement. Undoubtedly, all these tasks are now over. According to the Israeli newspaper DAVAR, Israel is a small, exhausted state that has no natural resources.

[Mubayyidin] But it has triumphed in all its wars with the Arabs.

[Qaddumi] This is because it is a strong military state which, to some extent, is similar to the USSR after World War I, and which flourished after World War II. Just look at what is happening there now. The fact that it possesses a huge nuclear power could not prevent its disintegration.

[Mubayyidin] Finally, what about the relationship with Jordan?

[Qaddumi] The relationship with Jordan must remain strong in all fields, especially since this serves both peoples on both banks, or, let us say, the people on the two banks. Democracy in Jordan has made a great contribution toward eliminating many of the threats of parochial Palestinian and Jordanian trends. The formation of political parties in Jordan by Jordanians and Palestinians, without discrimination, has reduced these threats to a great extent. Based on this, I believe that entrenching these relations is unescapable.

Further Explains Opposition to Accord

NC270905643 Paris AFP in English 0940 GMT
27 Sep 93

[Report by Marc Hutten]

[Text] Tunis, Sept 27 (AFP)—Faruq Qaddumi, the number two in the PLO hierarchy, has outlined his objections to the Palestinian autonomy agreement signed with Israel, calling it a "gamble."

Qaddumi, the PLO "foreign minister," came out against the pact on limited Palestinian self-rule and turned down the opportunity to sign the peace deal on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Mahmud 'Abbas, the PLO number three, signed the agreement instead of Qaddumi at a White House ceremony in Washington on September 13.

In a wide-ranging interview here on Sunday [26 September] with AFP, Qaddumi described the PLO-Israel agreement, under which the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho are to become autonomous on October 13, as "a gamble, a risk."

"The PLO took a risk," he said.

The head of the PLO's political department said he had "four reservations" to the autonomy pact.

"First of all, I said I had some remarks to make against the agreement itself," Qaddumi said.

"Secondly, I said that [it] would not sign an interim agreement.

"Thirdly, I said that we should all sign an agreement together, with the other Arab parties.

"And finally, I said that I could not sign (any agreement) without being authorized to do so by the Palestine National Council," the Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

Asked why, if he was opposed to the accord, he had been shuttling to Arab capitals to explain the agreement on behalf of the PLO, Qaddumi said: "Because it has become a fact, a thing of the past."

On Monday, he was to leave the Tunis headquarters of the PLO headed for New York, where he will lead the PLO delegation to the 48th U.N. General Assembly.

Qaddumi said that while in New York he "might" meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher but saw "no necessity" to arrange a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

He said immediate objectives were to "to repair the damage" and "get things moving" toward "the total withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied territories and the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state."

Qaddumi said he had explained his reservations about the agreement during a 90-minute meeting here Saturday with the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, John McCarthy.

"I told his excellency that the United States should officially recognize the PLO and that they should guarantee the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242," he said.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 of November 22, 1967 calls for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory as part of a land-for-peace deal.

Qaddumi also said that if asked to do so by the PLO leadership he was ready to meet leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which has rejected the PLO-Israel deal as a "sell-out."

Hamas has said it would boycott any meetings attended by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, throwing in question its participation at a Palestinian "reconciliation" meeting planned for next month in Yemen.

"We would rather not have such conditions, which block the way" toward reconciliation, Qaddumi said.

"It is normal to have different points of view, but we should all be able to express ourselves freely, and to arrive at an agreement on that which unites us," he said.

'Urayqat: 'Arafat To Arrive in Jericho in Jan

TA2609090393 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
26 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by Fayiz 'Abbas]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Jericho on 1 January 1994, the anniversary of the Palestinian revolution. This was revealed to AL-ITTihad, a newspaper published in Haifa, by Palestinian delegation member Sa'ib 'Urayqat. 'Urayqat noted that 'Arafat's return depends on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. He added that, for the first time, numerous residents of the territories would attend the debates of the Palestine National Council in Tunis.

[Writing on pages 1 and 8 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 26 September, Pe'erli Shahar reports: "Political elements in Jerusalem have told 'AL HAMISHMAR that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will be able to move to Jericho or Gaza only in seven or more months," because "Israel will not permit the PLO leader into either Gaza or Jericho before an agreement on the implementation of autonomy in these cities is signed and before negotiations on disputed issues are launched in accordance with dates stipulated in the declaration of principles."]

'Abbas: Joint Committees To Begin Mission 13 Oct

NC2409135093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT
24 Sep 93

[Text] Tunis, 24 Sep (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, has said that Palestinian-Israeli committees tasked to discuss implementing the declaration of principles agreement on self-rule will begin their mission on 13 October and that the Palestinian committees to the negotiations will be formed soon.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis today, he said the Palestinian committees will comprise Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied land and that some PLO Executive Committee members could participate in them. He said the committees will convene in Washington, Moscow, Cairo, and European capitals to be agreed upon with the Israeli side.

He pointed out that the agreement states the committees' work will last three months from 13 October. He explained that the next stage of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating process will not be governed by the system of rounds as it was before, but will be a continuous negotiating process.

He said there will be changes in the job of the Palestinian negotiating delegation members. They will participate in the work of the joint Palestinian-Israeli committees that will address relations, liaison, and the transfer of Israeli administrative powers in areas such as health, education, culture, direct taxes, tourism, and other Palestinian institutions.

Abu-Mazin said the accord with Israel stipulates that there should be a safe road for free passage of people and goods between Gaza and Jericho as a first step and that this road will become operational as soon as the Israeli withdrawal is implemented.

'Abbas Discusses Implementation of Agreement

NC2409193893 London MBC Television in Arabic 1720 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Mazin, by MBC correspondent Antoine 'Awn in Tunis, carried within the "Face-To-Face" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Awn] Abu-Mazin, you are one of the creators of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. What are its drawbacks?

['Abbas] The agreement we concluded with the Israelis is the result [words indistinct]. As they define it, it is an agreement of two wills to establish, amend, or abolish a right. This means it does not fulfill all the wishes of one party or the other. If we want to discuss drawbacks, inevitably, there are some. But what we have obtained and achieved is the most we can in the circumstances

and given the international equation that created everything from the start of the peace process in Madrid.

['Awn] There are political and legal drawbacks. Let us begin with the political drawbacks. What is the significance of not mentioning Jerusalem in the agreement, when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declared in Washington that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel?

['Abbas] First, we must recall that we went to Madrid on the basis that the Palestinian representation does not include Jerusalem on the understanding that it will be discussed in the final stages. And when we went to Madrid, the U.S. letters of assurance stated that the people of Jerusalem will only vote in the election. In the agreement, we mentioned Jerusalem twice: It was mentioned first as one of the issues that must be discussed in the final stage, which will begin as quickly as possible and not later than the end of the second year. The second, more important point is that the people of Jerusalem will participate in the entire electoral process of the Palestinian interim council. Thus, we maintain that Jerusalem was not ignored, regardless of Rabin's statement that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel. We maintain that Jerusalem will be a Palestinian capital, because Security Council Resolution 242 applies to it as an occupied territory from which Israel must withdraw.

['Awn] Why didn't you say this in Washington in response to Rabin before the entire world?

['Abbas] We said that one of the basic issues we will discuss is Jerusalem. It is well known that from an Israeli point of view and according to the Knesset resolution, Jerusalem has been annexed. Despite this, the Israelis agreed that the Jerusalem issue be placed on the agenda. This is the beginning of a reversal from the Israeli resolution that annexed Jerusalem and makes it a topic of discussion. As I said, when the people of Jerusalem vote to be a partner in the interim rule, this means Jerusalem will be ours. And, at the beginning of the agreement there is reference to Security Council Resolution 242, which provides for withdrawal from the occupied territories and states that it is inadmissible to annex others' land by force. This resolution was emphasized as a basis for implementation, not just a basis. That is, we did not say the solution will be based on Resolution 242, but agreed it must be implemented. Thus, there are numerous signs that Jerusalem was not ignored; no way could we do that.

[Antoine] If you please, Abu-Mazin, we will return to Resolutions 242 and 338 later. One Arab party does not believe it. The Jordanian crown prince considers Jerusalem to be Jordanian. He said verbatim: We ceded the West Bank, but will not agree to cede Jerusalem. What is your answer?

['Abbas] I maintain that Jerusalem is an Arab, Islamic, and Christian city. Jerusalem concerns everyone. I believe the Jordanian crown prince meant this, that Jerusalem concerns Jordan, Palestine, the Arab world, and the Islamic and Christian worlds. If I understand

him from this perspective, it is true, because Jerusalem concerns everyone. Jerusalem is a Palestinian territory and I hope it will be the capital of Palestine soon.

[Awn] The agreement did not address the issue of settlements, leaving it for later. Did you discuss this issue with the Israelis in Oslo? And from what perspective?

[Abbas] We consider the settlements to violate Resolution 242. The presence of settlements violates Resolution 242. We and the Israelis discussed them when Rabin said there are settlements with political goals and others with security goals. We are ready to debate this issue. We maintain that the issue of settlements with political goals is over and that the settlements must cease to exist or the settlers must vacate them. As for the security goals, we believe the Israelis should change their minds and eschew the mentality of force, weapons, and early warnings. Security cannot be achieved by military force, but by cooperation. I believe the Israelis got this message. They should understand it and that if we want to coexist, there is no need for such military bases. We think the settlements should be removed so that we may begin a new life and coexistence based on confidence. Let us look for a security that does not prevent fear, but achieves interests. If the Israelis understand this, I don't believe it is in their interest to hold on to the settlements. We cannot agree that they hold on to the settlements, because the land on which the settlements were built is Palestinian, expropriated and occupied. If we want to implement Resolution 242, they should remove these settlements.

[Awn] In a similar interview we conducted with him, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the negotiating delegation, denied an earlier channel of negotiations existed. Who knew of the Oslo meetings—Palestinians or others?

[Abbas] When the Oslo negotiations began, it was on a trial basis; it was no substitute for the Washington talks. In every set of negotiations, talks under the limelight are not enough. There must be channels of negotiations in the dark so that talks can be clearer, more frank, and intimate. At first, we saw this channel as a trial and when it began to succeed, we pursued the course, but maintained the secrecy so that we would not lose it, hence it would not fail.

We minimized the number who knew about the negotiations so that the news would not spread. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi may be right when he says there was no other channel, because he didn't know of one. Only brother Yasir 'Arafat and the negotiating delegation in Oslo knew about it.

[Awn] Didn't the Americans know?

[Abbas] As for the Americans, we don't know if they knew, but I can't imagine the Israelis did not inform them.

[Awn] We learned that the signing of the agreement in Oslo was videotaped. When will it be shown and can we get a copy?

[Abbas] The agreement was initialed in Oslo in a famous hall, where Norway signed its independence from Sweden. I believe the Norwegians filmed the ceremony, but they have the right to do what they want with the film.

[Awn] So the PLO has no copy?

[Abbas] No, it does not.

[Awn] One of the political flaws in the agreement is its disregard for the refugees' right to return. When can these refugees return? Some accusations are leveled at you that you accept their settlement in the states they are living in, especially Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the Gulf. Is this true?

[Abbas] Discussing the refugees, we must refer to UN Security Council Resolution 242. One of the four provisions in Resolution 242 is a just solution of the refugee problem. Previously, the Israelis said the word refugee did not apply to Palestinian refugees. But this meaning was upheld during the past three sessions of multilateral talks during which discussions centered only on the Palestinian refugees. This is one point. The other point is that the refugee issue is one of the basic topics included in the agreement. It will be discussed at the earliest opportunity, but not later than the beginning of the third year. Frankly speaking, we believe the refugee problem must be solved on the basis of the UN resolutions. The only valid resolution regarding the Palestinian refugees, besides Resolution 242, is Resolution 194. So, it is our right to adhere to this resolution, which, in short, says: Compensation for those who do not want to return. The U.S. Administration still supports this resolution. When the Refugee Committee met for the first time in Ottawa, the resolution was widely supported by the United States, Britain, France, Canada, Australia, and other Western states. So, we will not neglect the refugee issue, particularly as I too am a refugee.

[Awn] But Israel considers the return of the 1948 refugees a threat to its security and to its demographic balance. Is the arrival of the *Palasha* and Soviet Jews in Israel a clear reply that the 1948 Palestinian refugees cannot return?

[Abbas] Israel used to say there is no Palestinian people. It now says there is a Palestinian people. Israel used to say it couldn't shake hands with the PLO because it is a terrorist organization, and so on. It now recognizes the PLO. Israel didn't recognize that there are occupied territories. It now says it will withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area as a first step. There are no fixed or permanent stances in politics. Issues change. If Israel has a viewpoint, it doesn't mean we accept this view.

[Awn] Before we discuss the agreement's legal flaws, it has been said it has secret annexes. Is this true?

[Abbas] Regrettably, some brothers who oppose the agreement have tried to distort it. They fabricated a set of security, information, and political annexes and sent them to the press before we officially published the agreement. All these annexes to which they refer are groundless. The official Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, published the agreement and its four annexes. The first annex deals with the election. The second deals with the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. The third and fourth deal with economic issues. There is another annex called the agreed minutes [last three words in English]. Apart from this, there are no other agreements. This is all we signed in Washington.

[Awn] Now, Abu-Mazin, we come to the legal drawbacks of the agreement. I hope you will be patient with us: PLO recognition of Israel means, in international law, commitment to Israel's security and safety. But Israeli recognition of the PLO was confined to the right to represent the Palestinian people, not their right to self-determination and to establish a state on their land. Did you realize this before you exchanged the letters of recognition?

[Abbas] We realized this. When Israel recognized the PLO, it recognized what the PLO represents; it recognized the entire Palestinian people. It also acknowledged the facts in the agreement: That there is a Palestinian territory from which Israel will withdraw to establish an interim Palestinian government that may—or will, from our point of view—become an independent state. We must not forget that the terms of reference of the negotiations and the American letter of assurances publicly speak of a confederation. We understand that this is a confederation between us and Jordan and we understand that the confederation is a contractual agreement between two independent states. When we discuss Israel's recognition of the PLO, we know this is a recognition of what the PLO, the agreement, and the terms of reference mean. I believe this is a balanced recognition.

[Awn] But Abu-Mazin, according to the Montevideo Agreement, your recognition of Israel as a state is irreversible. Israel's recognition of you is something like the recognition of revolutionary councils that represent the people; it is a *de facto*, not *de jure*, recognition and can be withdrawn some day.

[Abbas] We must not forget that the PLO is the government of the Palestinian people, not a revolutionary organization now...

[Awn interrupts] This will happen after the election.

[Abbas] The PLO is now recognized by over 110 states. It has embassies in every capital. It represents a state in exile. When it moves to the land of Gaza and Jericho, it will become a state on the ground. So, the recognition will not be confined to the PLO, but to what it represents on the ground. What is a state? Land, people, and authority. The land is there, the people are there, and the authority is there. All this is mentioned in the agreement.

[Awn] Israel's recognition of the PLO was conditional on pledges Abu-Ammar [Yasir Arafat] must make. If you fail to meet your obligations and recognition is withdrawn, for example, what will you do?

[Abbas] What the recognition letter contains is exactly what we said in 1988. Every point in the recognition letter, be it Israel's right to exist, recognition of Security Council Resolution 242, or renunciation of terrorism, was stated in 1988 without any *quid pro quo*. So, we did nothing new. The point in the recognition letter is that some of the points we offered conflict with the PLO Charter. We said we will put these points to the Palestine National Council for approval. We came up with nothing new and gave no new undertaking other than the undertakings we offered in 1988. The only difference is that we made the offer in 1988 to express our good intentions and desire for peace. Now, we made the offer to obtain, for the first time, an Israeli recognition of the Palestinian people and their representatives.

[Awn] If you please, Abu-Mazin, I will read to you the declaration granting independence to colonized countries and peoples passed by the UN General Assembly in 1960: All peoples have a right to self-determination and can freely determine their political position and freely seek to achieve economic, social, and cultural development. Making the election subject to a bilateral Palestinian-Israeli agreement, according to this declaration, means that you denied your people the right to freely determine their future, because you make them subject to the will of a foreigner....

[Abbas interrupts] Israel's existence....

[Awn interrupts] Israel's existence.

[Abbas] The agreement says that after withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, all Israeli forces will withdraw from the populated cities and areas on the eve of the election so that it can be supervised by Palestinian police and, if we want, we can bring in international observers. The Israelis will not be present when the Palestinian people choose their representatives on the elected council.

[Awn] You allowed the Israelis to be present to provide security for the Israelis in the settlements and to move freely. Won't this inevitably influence the election?

[Abbas] This will not affect the election. Since we have been unable to remove the settlements, we must accept that the settlers exist and must be protected by the Israeli Government during the interim period. Let us take Egypt as an example: When the British Army was stationed in the Suez Canal area, it had the upper hand. In Bizart, in Tunisia, the French had the upper hand. In every country that began self-rule, there were isopholes. We are not saying our agreement has no isopholes. They exist and will for some time. Then they must end.

[Awn] The logic of experimental rule that Israel endorsed also contravenes the declaration granting independence to colonized countries and peoples. A clause in

the declaration says: Lack of political, economic, and social readiness must not be used as a pretext to delay independence. Why did you accept an experimental rule in stages? Why did you delay your independence and contravene international law?

[Abbas] At the outset, we and our Arab brothers agreed to go to the negotiations in two stages: The first is the interim stage and the second is negotiations in the final stage. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict differs from all others. The colonized countries were occupied by countries. Here we are two peoples locked in conflict over the same land, so the nature of a solution will differ from that for other conflicts. We reluctantly agreed to two stages, not one....

[Awn interrupts] Three stages. You have even divided the self-rule. Didn't you begin with Gaza-Jericho, then the West Bank, and then negotiations over the final stage?

[Abbas] Withdrawal will begin from Gaza and Jericho. The transfer of power will begin simultaneously. When we take power over Gaza and Jericho, we will also assume power over the rest of the West Bank. Implementation of the interim self-rule will take place in one stage. The difference is that there will be total withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and in the other areas there will be redeployment. [preceding word in English] This involves only one stage and all powers in the West Bank and Gaza will follow one leadership in Gaza, Jericho, or in both areas. It is one stage with a difference between one place and another. Frankly speaking, we insisted on withdrawal to emphasize that the territory is occupied and that Israeli withdrawal should begin here. This was not outlined in the terms of reference. Originally, there was no mention of withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. What was mentioned was redeployment of Israeli forces in every area. The PLO's entry was not on the cards. This was outlined in the agreement. Frankly speaking, numerous issues that were outlined in the agreement were not mentioned in the terms of reference, including Jerusalem, withdrawal, and direct dealing with the PLO. In the past, we talked of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and our brothers in Jordan, in truth, gave us a legal cover to enter the negotiations. We appreciate this Jordanian stance. Afterward, we reached a point where the PLO began direct negotiations. This was not mentioned in the terms of reference and is in our interest. [Nicosia Bureau herewith suspends filing of this multi-take item for the night and will resume filing after OOB of 0500 GMT on 25 September]

[Awn] Abu-Mazin, what is your response to those who say that you will not get more than the Gaza Strip and Jericho?

[Abbas] The agreement states that the interim government's territorial jurisdiction includes the West Bank and Gaza and that these territories are a single territorial unit whose unity must not be compromised in any case.

When territorial jurisdiction extends to all the territories, I do not believe there are grounds for saying that the issue is limited to Gaza and Jericho.

[Awn] UN Security Council Resolutions 242 through 799 classify the post-1967 territories as occupied territories. Abu-Mazin, have you noticed that this phrase does not appear at all in the agreement?

[Abbas] It appears implicitly. When we speak of Palestinian territorial jurisdiction in the West Bank and Gaza, there is a prior acknowledgement that they are occupied. When we speak of an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, this also means that these are occupied territories. When we say that the Israeli forces must withdraw from the cities and villages before elections are held, this also shows that they are occupied territories. Add to this that the agreement's first article clearly states that Resolution 242 must be implemented. We obtained this only with the greatest difficulty because at first they emphatically rejected the term implementation.

[Awn] Abu-Mazin, the significance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and others lies in the fact they have an internationally binding character. By concluding a bilateral agreement with Israel and by dividing autonomy into stages, have you not abrogated these resolutions' international character and the international cover they enjoy? Have you not transferred them from the province of international law to that of a bilateral contract?

[Abbas] No. The proof is that we base ourselves on two points: first, international legality as represented by Resolution 242, the basic resolution, and second, the authority of the Madrid conference cosponsors who pledged to continue sponsoring this political process until its conclusion.

[Awn] Abu-Mazin, by concluding an agreement with the Israelis and programming cooperation with them in the economic, developmental, and exchange spheres, including programming such cooperation with the Arab countries, have you not eliminated Israel's character of occupier even before regaining the rest of the territory?

[Abbas] No cooperation will be put into operation before we assume authority. When we assume authority, there will be cooperation.

[Awn] Over all the territories?

[Abbas] Over all the territories. There will be authority. There is a difference between authority and sovereignty. We must distinguish between the two. When we assume authority, we will have the right to conclude cooperation agreements, something we cannot do before that. Another thing: We are also looking to the Arab world because we cannot be with Israel to the exclusion of the Arab world. This is why we formed six committees with the brothers in Jordan for the purpose of coordination

between the Palestinian interim authority and the Jordanian brothers. This will ensure some sort of basic cooperation with Jordan before there is cooperation with the remaining parties.

[Awn] Abu-Mazin, I do not know who the Palestinian citizen will be five years from now. He is not entitled to Jordanian, Israeli, or Egyptian identification because he is a Palestinian. Since you do not have sovereignty yet, can you grant identification papers?

[Abbas] We have not had an identification process for 45 years. We have to be patient for one or two years until we can establish our basic identification process and hence transfer this from the basic level to law, and then all the Palestinian people will have identification. But not today, tomorrow, or the day after. We are all without identification.

[Awn] But, Abu-Mazin, for the last 50 years, there has been no agreement, but rather a state of war. There is an agreement today and you did not spell out what the Palestinian's identity will be for the next five years. Is this not one of the Palestinian people's rights?

[Abbas] I believe that the occupied Palestinian territory will be a term of reference, an identity, and an affiliation for all the Palestinian people. All of them will return to it. It will be their term of reference. They might not live in this territory but it will be their term of reference, like Lebanon, where half of the Lebanese people are outside Lebanon but belong to Lebanon. Three quarters of the Palestinian people abroad will belong to this Palestinian territory.

[Awn] The PLO's commitment to stop violence and terrorism has been interpreted as a halt to the intifadah. Will the intifadah stop? Will you dissolve the collective leadership?

[Abbas] The intifadah started in order to get rid of the occupation. If the occupation ends, then there is no intifadah. In other words, if the Israeli army departs from the cities, villages, and territories, then there is no justification for the intifadah and the people will proceed toward reconstruction and building. As you heard people yesterday talking to the MBC, we must now move to a new stage. But we signed the agreement and the Israeli army is still in Gaza and clashes have taken place in Gaza, Ramallah, and elsewhere. There will be an intifadah as long as the Israeli army is there. Once the Israeli army goes, our people are not in love with throwing stones and resistance. What will it resist if the Israeli army leaves? Therefore, the intifadah is linked to the presence of the occupation.

[Awn] But the PLO commitment does not bind the others, and there are others. What will happen if the others, those opposed to the agreement, continue the struggle?

[Abbas] This is a dual problem. It is not a problem for us alone but also for the Israelis. They have opponents. If

our opposition is around 30 or 40 percent, then their opposition is 49 percent. Anything could happen on our side as well as on their side. Officials have to resolve these problems. As much as problems can happen to our side, I am sure that problems will be caused by the Israeli extremists, settlers, and opponents of the agreement. Frankly, it is a dual problem for us and them.

[Awn] Abu-Mazin, frankly speaking, many are saying that the PLO has not reaped from the agreement anything but promises of funds for aid and development and that it might get a majority in the council that will be elected. They say that is all you have achieved. How do you reply to these people?

[Abbas] What we have achieved economically or from all aspects?

[Awn] Politically, you will bring the council into being. Economically and financially, will you achieve the restoration of aid and the PLO's revival?

[Abbas] We will achieve the council, the withdrawal, the presence on the ground, and the start of the national Palestinian authority. As to the economic issues, I might join you and say that we might not get anything. Herein lies the world's responsibility. If the world wants this newborn baby to thrive, then it has to help. This is the responsibility of the United States, Europe, Japan and the responsibility of all our Arab brothers who have to extend backing and aid to a society that has nothing. There were establishments, but they were destroyed. If the promises are not fulfilled, then the situation will indeed be very grave. I say frankly that if they only want to tell us: Please take authority over a land where there are no establishments, unemployment is 60 percent, and the economic situation is completely nonexistent, then I believe that there is a world plot against this agreement.

[Awn] Abu-Mazin, after signing the agreement, has the PLO's financial crisis been resolved, and what will the fate of the tens of thousands of people who are affiliated with the PLO around the world be?

[Abbas] First, the financial problem has not been resolved so far, unfortunately. But all those people who are affiliated with the organization will continue to belong to the PLO, and the PLO will continue to exist. The future Palestinian leadership will comprise the PLO and people from inside the occupied territories for two reasons: The first is to express Palestinian integration as one issue; and the other reason is that we have not yet resolved our problems with the Israelis. As we have already said, there are the issues of the settlers, the refugees, Jerusalem, the final stage, and so on. Therefore, the continuing existence of the PLO outside the occupied territories is necessary and essential for these two reasons.

[Awn] A few personal questions, Abu-Mazin: When you signed the agreement, did you feel the greatness of the event, and did you feel that you were, perhaps, God forbid, signing the paper sanctioning your assassination?

[Abbas] To be honest, the issue of assassination did not occur to me at all, because I am a believer. I believe that when their term is reached, not an hour can they cause delay, nor (an hour) can they advance (it in anticipation). [Koranic verse]

The other point is that I went with the impression or feeling that I was doing something that my sons and I can be proud of, that I was offering the Palestinian people something to entrench their presence on their land for the first time. Therefore, I was not afraid.

However, the sense of responsibility was very great regarding the future. In other words, while I was signing, I was thinking to myself that the easy part is now over; the hard part is yet to come, and it is much more difficult than what we have been through. From this perspective, I was very afraid. I was afraid that this step, which I do not consider a historic step, but the beginning of a historic era—we are on the threshold of history and the future is the history that could be made—I felt a great sense of responsibility for how we will move from one stage to another, from the stage of revolution, to the stage of the state, and then to the stage of construction. This is the difficulty and the challenge before us and other people.

[Awn] Does your family share this thinking with you?

[Abbas] The first congratulations I got were from my sons. I have three sons in the Gulf. They were the first ones who contacted me and congratulated me. They were very happy. So were my wife and brothers. The evidence is that they are satisfied and proud at the same time that their father performed such an act, which we are not ashamed of. We are not embarrassed by it. On the contrary, we feel very proud that we are serving our people.

[Awn] One last question, Abu-Mazin. Where will you live? In Gaza, Jericho, Tunis, or somewhere else?

[Abbas] This issue rests on a PLO decision that, I believe, will be made in the future by the PLO leadership and the leadership inside the occupied territories. It will depend on who takes on responsibility in the occupied territories. I believe that most responsibilities will fall on the shoulders of our brothers, the sons of the Gaza Strip and Jericho. So, whether I play a role internally or externally, I believe that I will continue along the same course. It is not important where I live. The important thing is that we need to continue this march until we establish peace.

[Awn] Abu-Mazin, thank you.

[Abbas] I thank you.

Al-Husayni on Future Status of Jerusalem, Settlements

NC2609075993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0742 GMT
26 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations with Israel [title as received], has announced that the status of Jerusalem will be discussed in the final stage, noting that the city will be the capital of the state of Palestine.

In an interview with the magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF published in the 27 September issue, al-Husayni said the results that the Palestinians achieved in a few weeks during the Oslo discussions would have taken years at the Washington talks. He said that all parties have secret negotiating channels, declaring: Let any negotiating party that has no secret channels cast a stone at me.

Al-Husayni added that the Palestinian state will begin in Gaza and then extend to include all the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. He pointed out that this is the substance of the agreement.

Asked about the settlements, al-Husayni said they will remain under Israeli authority and that the settlers will not be subject to the Palestinian self-government's authority until the Israeli forces withdraw completely from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. After that, he said, everyone will be subject to Palestinian authority and laws.

Self-Government Authority Appointments Reported

NC2609203893 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
21 Sep 93 pp 1,7

[Text] AL-NAHAR has learned from Palestinian sources that new instructions and orders will be issued by the PLO Executive Committee chairman containing a list of the names of representatives on the self-government authority in Gaza and Jericho, which will take over from the Israelis in preparation for the upcoming elections.

Order 1

Based on the authority invested in me as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, I order the following:

The military orders considering the PLO and its groups as terrorist organizations are canceled.

Order 2

Based on the authority invested in me as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, I order the following:

The Palestinian law as it was on 4 June 1967 shall be applied and all military orders that contradict this law shall be canceled. All other orders shall remain in effect until other instructions are issued.

The text of the Jordanian law shall be applied.

Order 3

Based on the authority invested in me as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, I order the following:

- Major General Abu-Khalid al-'Imlah is appointed commander of the Jericho police.
- Major General al-Hajj Isma'il and Brigadier General Muhammad Qudsiyah are appointed assistants to the commander of the Jericho police.
- Major General al-Majayidah is appointed commander of the Gaza police, assisted by Major General Khalid Sultan and Major General Mansur al-Sharif.
- Major General Nasr Yusuf is appointed official in charge of national security.
- Major General Yasin Sa'adah is appointed official in charge of supplies.
- Major General Fakhri Shaqqurah is appointed director of intelligence [istikhabarat].
- Major General Abu-al-Mu'tasim is appointed chief of operations.
- Major General Abu-al-Za'im is appointed director of the investigations bureau [mukhabarat].
- Brigadier General Abu-Hamid is appointed inspector of public order.

Order 4

Based on the authority invested in me as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, I order the following:

Palestinian employees working in all the departments in Jericho and Gaza must remain in their posts and jobs until other instructions are issued.

Order 5

Based on the authority invested in me as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, I order the following:

- Nihad Abu-Gharbiyah is appointed deputy director general for education and culture.
- Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is appointed deputy director general for public health. He will be assisted by Dr. 'Adnan 'Arafah.
- Mrs. Samihah Khalil is appointed deputy director general for social affairs. She will be assisted by Yusuf al-Bikri.
- As'ad al-Saftawi is appointed deputy director general for taxation.
- Zuhayr al-'Umd is appointed deputy director general for tourism. He will be assisted by 'Ali 'Uwaydah.

Order 6

Based on the authority invested in me as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, I order the following:

- Engineer Hani Ghawshah is appointed deputy general director for electricity. He will be assisted by 'Abd Abu-Diyab.
- Radwan Abu-'Ayyash is appointed deputy general

director for radio and television. He will be assisted by Na'im al-Tubasi.

- Lawyer Ahmad Damanhuri is appointed legal adviser for the Jordanian law affairs.
- Lawyer Furayh Abu-Madyan is appointed legal adviser for the Palestinian law affairs.
- Lawyer Jamal Abu-Tu'mah is appointed legal adviser for Israeli law affairs.
- Dr. 'Abd-al-Fattah Abu-al-Shukr is appointed deputy general director of the Planning Department. He will be assisted by Dr. Hisham 'Urtani.
- Shaykh Hasan Tahbub is appointed general supervisor for the Awqaf and Islamic Sanctities and Affairs Departments. He will be assisted by Hashim 'Asha'ir. This will not conflict with the existing Awqaf Department that is currently run by Jordan.
- Habib Jarradah is appointed auditor general for financial affairs.
- Ibrahim Salamah is appointed deputy general director of the Industry Department. He will be assisted by Nasir al-Sarraj.
- Khalid al-Qutb is appointed deputy general director of the export council affairs. He will be assisted by Mansur al-Shawwa.
- Dr. Jad Ishaq is appointed deputy general director for the environment.
- Riyadh Jubran is appointed deputy general director for labor and workers. He will be assisted by Shahir Sa'd.
- Jamal Shukukani is appointed deputy general director for surveys. He will be assisted by Hashim Abu-Hilal.
- Muhammad al-Qudwah is appointed deputy general director for building. He will be assisted by Mu'adh al-Nabulsi.
- Muhammad Nusaybah is appointed deputy general director for housing. He will be assisted by Ibrahim Sha'ban.
- Shaykh Hamid Halayqah is appointed deputy for clan affairs. He will be assisted by Muhammad Abu-Sittah.
- Khalil al-Salwani is appointed deputy general director for the Justice Department.
- Bassam Bamiyah is appointed deputy general director for agriculture.
- Tahsin al-Faris is appointed deputy general director of the development bank.
- Mahir al-Masri is appointed deputy general director of finance.
- Tahir Nasir-al-Din is appointed deputy general director of water.

Order 7

Acting on the authority invested in me as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, I order the following:

The Jericho mayor will be dismissed and a committee made up of the existing Palestinian institutions will be set up. Health Director Yasir 'Ubayd is appointed mayor in his capacity as health director for Jerusalem, including Jericho.

Order 8

Based on the authority invested in me as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, I order the following:

Attorney Fayiz Abu-Rahmah is appointed the mayor of Gaza. Accordingly, all the directors general of all departments will be from the PLO cadres abroad.

The sources noted that a list containing the names of the ministers of the "interim government," which will receive the authority in Gaza and Jericho from the Israelis and will prepare for the elections, is now before chairman 'Arafat. The list contains a group of women, including Fatimah Barnawi, Umm Jihad, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Zuhayrah Kamal. The sources did not confirm or deny whether Ahmad 'Afanah, alias Abu-al-Mu'tasim, has agreed to assume a ministerial post. Abu-al-Mu'tasim is currently the chief of staff of the Palestinian revolution forces.

The sources affirmed that after his return from Washington, Abu-'Ammar embarked on forming the technical teams and 38 other teams for negotiations with the Israelis over the declaration of principles. The negotiations will be held simultaneously in Washington, Cairo, Jerusalem, and Tunis. The sources stressed that Dr. Sari Nusaybah will chair these "teams" inside and outside the occupied territories.

The same sources indicated that the issue of housing represents a major concern for the Palestinian leadership in Tunis, although there is an international willingness to give aid to the Palestinian self-government authority from Japan, Europe, the World Bank, and the Scandinavian countries. The aid will be allotted to building thousands of apartments for half a million Palestinians, who will return from the diaspora within "five years." The sources said, however, that the number of those Palestinians will depend on "the future Palestinian structure," which will be formed in Gaza and Jericho in early 1994, and whether this structure will adopt democracy, pluralism, and social prosperity.

The sources said that the Palestinian leadership has called for taking part in the construction inside the occupied territories and in Gaza and Jericho, in particular.

The sources noted that the right to return is guaranteed, regardless of the political situation [al-mawqif al-siyasi]. All the Palestinian refugees have the right to return to their Palestinian homeland.

Regarding the independent state, the sources said that this state will be set up when the first Israeli soldier withdraws from Gaza and Jericho first and when the PLO takes over the authority.

The sources said that the Palestinian People Party, the Fida' Party, and Fatah will represent the backbone of the political leadership in Gaza and Jericho. The sources affirmed that Jerusalem will be the capital of the future state. Israel, who agreed that the population of Jerusalem can take part in the elections of the self-government

authority, will sooner or later agree that Jerusalem will be the capital of the Palestinian people.

As for the venue of the PLO headquarters, the sources said that Gaza will be the main headquarters and that Tunis will be the branch headquarters. The sources said that the Gulf states and Lebanon still consider the resettlement of the Palestinians as a totally unacceptable option.

Fatah Denies Report

NC2609212693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 22 Sep 93 pp 1, 19

[Text] The Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, has issued the following statement:

The Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, announces that it emphatically denies what was published in AL-NAHAR newspaper on 21 September 1993 regarding orders for interim period appointments. We assure our people that our leadership is still studying and preparing the necessary arrangements for the interim period. We point out that preparations are currently taking place for registration and enlistment in the Palestinian police force in accordance with the instructions of president Yasir 'Arafat. We urge the Palestinian press to be accurate when publishing reports that could cause confusion among the Palestinians.

'Abd-al-Shafi Wants No Role in Autonomy Government

NC2609163393 Paris AFP in English 1437 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Sept 26 (AFP)—Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation at the Washington peace talks, is retiring from politics and will take no role in the future autonomy administration.

"I have no intention of taking any part in the future Palestinian authority," 'Abd-al-Shafi told AFP on Sunday. [26 August]

The 74-year-old doctor wants to devote his time to work as president of the Red Crescent Society in the Gaza Strip, following the agreement signed by Israel and the PLO on September 13.

"I considered the moment the agreement was signed as the end of the road for the delegation," said 'Abd-al-Shafi, but he has not technically resigned as delegation chief to the bilateral peace talks with Israel in Washington.

"The next stage will be the responsibility of the (PLO) leadership and personally I have no details about that."

He has repeatedly criticised parts of the accord which was negotiated secretly by the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel without the knowledge of his delegation.

But 'Abd-al-Shafi would not say that he was standing down because of the proposed autonomy plan starting in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho on October 13.

"My role was between Madrid and the signing of the agreement," he said, referring to the launch of the Middle East peace process in the Spanish capital in October 1991.

He denied a report in AL-NAHAR daily newspaper last week that PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat had appointed him as number two in the autonomous health authority.

'Abd-al-Shafi, deputy speaker of the first Palestinian parliament-in-exile from 1964-1965, wrote in an article in Sunday's AL-QUDS newspaper: "I have two major concerns about the agreement.

"There is no clear statement that Israel accepts it is an occupying country and there is no clear indication about the illegal actions of Israel in Jerusalem and the occupied territories."

'Abd-al-Shafi was also unhappy with the setting aside of the question of Jerusalem for two years until talks begin on a final settlement.

"In two or three years from now it might be too late to set up a Palestinian state because of the policy of continued settlement building around Jerusalem," he said.

"There is no reason for extreme optimism and happiness," he said, urging people not to get carried away only to be disappointed again in the future."

'Abd-al-Shafi, a former communist who has enjoyed the respect of all Palestinian factions, criticised the overall "vagueness" of the accord.

"We have had enough problems with vague formulas in the past and we will continue to have a problem with this as long as we are the weaker party," he explained, referring to U.N. resolutions which are interpreted differently by Israel and the Palestinians.

He ended his cautionary article with a call for Palestinian unity.

Denies Intent To Resign as Delegation Head

TA2609203793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000
GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks with Israel, has denied AFP reports that he intends to resign as delegation head. However, 'Abd-al-Shafi confirmed that he had no intention of holding any post in the autonomy administration. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi spoke with our correspondent Amy Rose.

PNC Official Previews Autonomy Council Elections

NC2409100993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0751 GMT
24 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENA)—A senior Palestinian official has stated that the elections for the Palestinian self-government's council that will administer West Bank and Gaza affairs during the transitional period will involve individual candidates, not party lists or political blocs.

Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council [PNC], told MENA today that such elections can still allow candidates belonging to various political persuasions to run for the council.

He added that the council is expected to have 50 members representing various constituencies in Gaza and the West Bank. The elected members will choose a chairman and two deputy chairmen. These persons will form a transitional self-government that will handle day-to-day affairs in the Arab territories in line with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement signed in Washington on 13 September.

Subayh said that the Palestinian council, due to be formed within nine months, will have both legislative and executive powers and will handle police, health, education, cultural, and tax affairs.

He continued that the nominations and elections will be conducted according to internationally accepted democratic procedures that are observed by the world's parliaments.

Subayh explained that the council's tenure will be three years, which is the transitional period. After that Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will be held to determine the final status that will involve Palestinian self-determination via a referendum.

Hamas, Fatah To Meet Minus 'Arafat, 'Abbas

JN2509193193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900
GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Jordan, has announced that Hamas has agreed on holding a meeting with the Fatah Movement, the mainstream PLO faction. Nazzal added that Hamas informed Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of its agreement to meet the Fatah Central Council, on condition that Yasir 'Arafat and Mahmud 'Abbas do not attend this meeting, because they were involved in the document recognizing Israel and the Palestinian-Israeli accord.

Following the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli accord, Yemen expressed readiness to sponsor a meeting among the Palestinian factions in Sanaa.

PLO Official Confirms Invitation*LD2609190593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 26 Sep 93*

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, has confirmed that the PLO has received a proposal to holding a direct meeting with the Hamas movement [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Yemen. He noted the readiness of the PLO to meet the various Palestinian groups and communities directly or inside the institutions that are controlled by the PLO. He said that the awaited meeting with Hamas will be like a final agreement on the shape and nature of the cooperation between the two sides during the coming stage.

Habash Urges Further Struggle Against Occupation*JN2509060393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500
GMT 25 Sep 93*

[Text] Intra-Palestinian fighting, or a Palestinian-Palestinian war is a red line that should not be crossed, or approached, no matter how acute the differences in the Palestinian arena.

Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], made this statement in an interview published in AL-MUHARRIR. He said: We do not want to get close to this red line in spite of the agreements between the occupation and the collapsing political leadership of the PLO, which clearly show that there is some kind of security alliance between the two to confront and strike at the forces that oppose the Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

Dr. Habash emphasized the need to remain committed to the intifadah, and to pursue and escalate the struggle with every available means against the occupation—including soldiers, settlers, and Israeli establishments. Habash called for the mobilization of the forces opposing the agreement, which he described as a treasonous agreement in a national Islamic front whose objective is to safeguard the inalienable national rights, protect the PLO and its charter, and foil the humiliating agreement.

Dr. Habash concluded: What we are in the process of doing is not setting up a substitute PLO but rebuilding it on the basis of adherence to the national program.

Factions' Statement Urges 'Escalation' of Intifadah*JN2609163493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Sep 93*

[Text] Damascus—The 10 Palestinian factions have called for efforts to foil the attempt to halt the intifadah against Israel in the occupied Arab territories in the wake of Yasir 'Arafat's recent decision to stop the intifadah's military operations.

In a press statement today, the 10 factions urged all Palestinian nationalists to fulfill their pledge to both the

martyrs and Palestine by continuing with every available form of confrontation and by safeguarding and escalating the intifadah against the enemy.

The occupied territories organization in the Palestinian Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party criticized the Gaza-Jericho agreement, saying the agreement would be a great victory for Zionism and its entity [Israel]. This agreement disavows the principles of the Palestinian national struggle, the PLO and its charter, and the blood of thousands of martyrs who fell on the long militant path against the Zionist enemy, the organization adds.

In a political statement issued today, the organization said this agreement gravely damages the Palestine question, the valiant intifadah, and the supreme interests of the Arab and Islamic nations.

The statement urged adherence to the PLO charter and to continued struggle until all Palestinian soil is liberated and a Palestinian state is established, with Jerusalem as its capital. It also urged adherence to the rights of repatriation and self-determination.

The statement called for condemnation of all proposals urging the cancellation of the UN resolutions that denounce Israel and its racist policies.

'Arafat Orders Halt to Anti-Israeli Operations*NC2409150993 Paris AFP in English 1443 GMT
24 Sep 93*

[Text] Rafah, Occupied Gaza Strip, Sept 24 (AFP)—PLO fighters have received orders from Yasir 'Arafat to halt all operations against the Israeli occupation, a guerrilla leader told AFP Friday. [24 September]

"We respect the decision of president 'Arafat to stop firing," Hisham Judah, the Gaza Strip leader of Fatah Hawks, the Palestine Liberation Organization's main armed group, said.

"Since the autonomy agreement was signed on September 13 we have not carried out any operation against the Israelis," said the 28-year-old, one of the most wanted Palestinian fighters.

"We can protect ourselves but are under orders not to open fire first," he said during the interview at a secret location in Rafah, on the border with Egypt.

The Hawks have killed only one Palestinian "collaborator" since the accord, which comes into effect in Gaza and Jericho on October 13, was sealed, and that was decided on beforehand.

"We stopped operations against the army so I've stopped everything against our own people as well," said Judah, who commands 50 armed guerrillas spread across the strip in underground cells.

However the interrogation of suspected collaborators continued.

Judah urged the Israelis to stop hunting his men.

"The Israeli soldiers must respect the decision of their leaders," he said. "We have an agreement. They should come and shake my hand. I'm ready to shake their hand now there is peace."

Three Fatah Hawks were arrested in Jabalya refugee camp on Wednesday night in a border police swoop and the army has shot dead six Palestinians in the territories since September 13.

The body of an Israeli man stabbed to death on Wednesday was found north of Tel Aviv on Friday in an attack claimed by the PLO rival Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

Meanwhile, Israel's military chief of staff General Ehud Barak said the PLO leadership had issued instructions to activists in the territories to reduce the level of violence.

"It is in the PLO's interest to cut down violence and terrorism in Israel and perhaps even in Lebanon," Barak told Friday's MA'ARIV newspaper.

"The PLO leadership has given instructions to that end to activists in the field."

He backed the setting up of a Palestinian police force to maintain order during the autonomous period and said he expected the major problem for Israel to be ensuring security on the roads in the territories.

'Arafat 'Harshly' Criticizes Iran on Terrorism

JN2509061693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat continues his Asian tour in search of international support for the agreement on self-rule in the occupied territories, starting with Gaza and Jericho.

Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] will arrive in Ankara from Jakarta to brief top Turkish officials on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and its dimensions.

A Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman said President 'Arafat's visit to Ankara will be a chance for Turkish officials to reaffirm their full support for Palestinian rights.

Those who follow the PLO chairman's activities say his visit to Turkey has great importance due Ankara's regional importance and Western friendship. Ankara is a member of NATO. Turkey's importance and friendships may be employed to support the political options of the PLO leadership in facing the other regional parties opposed to these options, especially Iran.

In an interview this week with the French PARIS-MATCH, 'Arafat harshly criticized Iran. In the interview, 'Arafat said: The Iranians are playing an extremely harmful role. They send money to these fanatics, and they want to impose their hegemony on the Middle East,

but they will not be able to endanger the peace process, particularly when the peace is concluded with all Arabs and not just with the Palestinians.

'Arafat Adviser: Japanese Aid 'Below Expectations'

OW2609091693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0853 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 26 KYODO—The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) expects Japan to become the largest donor of aid to enable Palestinians to achieve limited self-rule, a senior PLO official said Saturday [25 September].

Nabil Sha'th, an adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE the 100 million dollars in annual aid Japan has said it is prepared to offer for limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho is below his expectations.

He will head a Palestinian delegation to a meeting of international donors Friday in Washington to raise money for reconstruction in the Middle East.

Sha'th said high-ranking Japanese officials promised him that if Palestinians sign a peace agreement and begin steps toward self-rule, Japan is prepared to exceed the total amount of aid given by other nations.

The PLO and Israel signed a peace agreement in Washington on September 13 but the PLO needs to muster large sums of aid from the international community if it is to achieve and maintain self-rule in the regions that Israel has agreed to cede.

Sha'th, who helped facilitate the 1989 visit to Japan by 'Arafat, said that once preparations are in place, 'Arafat and a delegation of other Palestinian representatives could again visit Japan to request its cooperation.

OPEC Affairs

\$6 Billion Lost From 'Plunging' Oil Prices

AU2409204593 Paris AFP in English 1604 24 Sep 93

[Text] Geneva, Sept 24 (AFP)—OPEC officials gearing for crucial talks on their oil production strategy said Friday [24 September] that plunging prices had cost their countries six billion dollars since March.

Oil ministers from the increasingly fractious 12-nation group were set Saturday to open formal discussions on a ceiling for fourth-quarter output with prices at a three-year low.

Several ministers favoured raising the target from the current theoretical cap of 23.6 million barrels a day to 24.5 million barrels, which is about what OPEC is actually producing.

But the question remains how to apportion the quota increases and restore credibility to a system openly flouted by members such as Iran, Nigeria and Kuwait which have refused to respect output caps.

Libyan Energy Minister 'Abdallah Salim al-Badri set the tone for the talks by announcing Friday that collapsing prices had taken a heavy toll on members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"We calculated we lost about six billion dollars since March," al-Badri said after a meeting of the group's compliance committee that also included the Qatar and Gabon ministers and OPEC Secretary General Subroto.

OPEC officials said the loss was calculated from the difference in revenue between sales at an expected 18 dollars a barrel and the actual average of less than 17 dollars. Crude currently goes for 15 dollars a barrel.

Al-Badri also confirmed that August output had totaled about 24.7 million barrels a day, a million over the target. He said OPEC members had overproduced by 200 million barrels since March.

An OPEC source said the group should logically lower output, "but that is not realistic" given fears of lost revenue. Saudi Arabia, the main producer, has already said it would not go below its daily quota of eight billion barrels.

"We have to raise the theoretical ceiling on the basis of quotas with a new redistribution," the source said. But Kuwait, for one, is seeking special treatment as a victim of the Gulf War.

Chief Don Etiebet, Nigeria's petroleum secretary, would not disclose his specific hopes for the meeting.

But he said on arriving here, "I have a preference to recover lost prices, a preference to control production quotas and a preference to firm up the market."

Discipline is a key problem plaguing the 33-year-old OPEC, which shook the world with spectacular price hikes in 1973 and 1979 but is now having trouble maintaining a united front.

Iran is almost 300,000 barrels over its daily quota of 3.34 million barrels and Nigeria is also over its allocated 1.78 million barrel limit.

Kuwait refused to accept the 1.6 million barrel cap decided at the OPEC meeting in June and is turning out 2.16 million barrels, the quota it seeks to have parity with the United Arab Emirates.

The Kuwaiti oil minister, 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli, expressed hope Friday for his country's return to the OPEC quota system, but did not think any increase in output should be distributed equally.

"We have a special case," he said in a reference to his country's struggle back from the devastation of the Iraqi occupation in 1990 and 1991.

Kuwaiti Minister on Need for Increased Output

LD2609185193 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli today stressed that the State of Kuwait is still committed to its stance regarding the need for it to be allowed to produce 2,160,000 barrels per day during the last quarter of this year.

The oil minister, who is leading the State of Kuwait's delegation to the OPEC meeting currently being held in Geneva, said that Kuwait's demand is just in view of the exceptional circumstance the State of Kuwait is experiencing.

Saudi-Iranian 'Understanding' on Strategy Reached

AU2709095293 Paris AFP in English 0949 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Geneva, Sept 27 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia and Iran, the two key players in OPEC, reached a "common understanding" Monday [27 September] on production strategy to raise prices, an Iranian delegate said.

Asked whether this could signal a breakthrough in three-day-old OPEC talks here, the delegate said, "I hope so" but would not elaborate.

"They came to a common understanding," the delegate said after breakfast discussions between Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Muhyi-al-Din Nazir and his Iranian counterpart Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i.

Oil ministers of the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, plagued with overproduction, are seeking to forge a more credible output strategy to lift prices from a three-year low of 15 dollars a barrel.

Delegates said they were thinking of a fourth-quarter ceiling of 24.3 million to 24.5 million barrels a day, up from the current 23.6 million barrels but just under what they are actually pumping.

Sources said OPEC powerhouse Saudi Arabia signalled a willingness to give up some market share to Iran to smooth an agreement but would not descend below its quota of eight million barrels a day.

For their part, the Iranians quickly rejected the quota proposed by the wise men, reportedly a 150,000 barrel increase to nearly 3.5 million barrels.

An Iranian delegate said Iran, currently pumping 300,000 barrels more than its limit of 3.34 million, found the proposal "far away" from the level Tehran could accept.

Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said later that "progress is going a little better" but would not comment on details.

"The meeting is going a little better (but) not very much," the Iranian minister told reporters as he headed for a plenary session of the talks.

Algeria

Islamic Group Statement on 'Jihad' Against Regime

PM2409131793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
21 Sep 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "'Armed Islamic Group' Distributes Leaflets Urging Rebellion"]

[Text] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—A three-page "special statement" issued by the "Armed Islamic Group" and signed by the group's "amir" [leader] Sayf-al-Din Ja'far was distributed in the popular districts of the capital yesterday morning.

The statement urged citizens to rebel and warned reserve soldiers not to join what it termed the "brutal clique." This "special statement," which contains a fatwa permitting "jihad" against the current regime, came 48 hours after Defense Minister Major General Lamin Zeroual's meeting with Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council. As is well known, the "Armed Islamic Group" claimed responsibility for the assassination of former Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah.

Eight 'Terrorists' Killed in Tipasa Province

LD2509202193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] A cable from the Algerian Press Agency APS said that it has learned from the security authorities that eight terrorists were killed around the Province of Tipasa and arms caches were recovered following a large search operation which followed the eight terrorists' attack on a national security patrol killing five of its members.

According to the same source, another two terrorists were killed last Tuesday [21 September] in Ain Defla in the Province of Chlef and another terrorist was killed in the Province of Tebessa and a shotgun was recovered.

'Terrorists' Aim at Education, Economic Targets

LD2609205693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Recently terrorism began to pursue the method of economic hemorrhage and sabotage against the educational and economic establishment by demolishing and setting afire several economic, social, and educational establishments. In Telagh, in the western part of the country, an electronic industry establishment was totally destroyed during the early hours of the morning.

[Unidentified correspondent] According to our information, at midnight a gang entered and totally destroyed the plant. They set it on fire which raged until 0200. The gang left at 0230. [passage omitted]

Under the cover of darkness and after midnight the night before last, an armed terrorist group stormed and set on

fire a garage housing vehicles in Gouraya. These vehicles used to provide services to the inhabitants of neighboring villages. The fire destroyed all the contents of the garage. The losses totalled 1.5 billion centimes and 40 families lost the source of their livelihood. [passage omitted]

In similar circumstances and at the same time, another terrorist group stormed rail administrative offices in Boufarik. The gang tied up the four watchmen and then set the offices and vehicles on fire. [passage omitted]

IMF Director: Economic Crisis Can Be Overcome

LD2509091993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Excerpt] In an interview published today in EL-WATAN, the IMF director general has reaffirmed Algeria's capability to overcome the economic crisis, especially now the resources are available. He added that Algeria's economy could overcome its current situation if the government adopted economic policies as a whole and the necessary structural policies. The IMF director general pointed out that the Algerian economy could recover if Algeria regained financial balance and established a credible investment policy. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak on Peace Process, Lockerbie, Syria

PM2409152593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
23 Sep 93 p 6

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Jihad al-Khazin in Burj al-'Arab, west of Alexandria; "yesterday"]

[Text] [Al-Khazin] How do you see the region's future after the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Mubarak] If we behave rationally, the region will remain cohesive, and we will be able to achieve a real peace and recover the land. But this requires continued consultations among the parties concerned. And even if we want to differ...we should agree (to differ). So if there is disagreement, we should agree on it if it is in the interests of the issue. But we know that there are outside forces at play in the region which have numerous interests. And there are forces that do not want stability or a solution, but want us to bleed continuously. I do not believe that we will reach the point of chaos, because most Arab states are aware of what is happening, whether they be those which agree to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement or those which are opposed to it for one reason or another.

[Al-Khazin] When did Egypt learn about the secret negotiations between the PLO and Israel, and what was its role in them?

[Mubarak] We help our brothers to the best of our ability. The more information I receive, the more I can

help. That is, I cannot get information from outside and try to help you voluntarily, because this help might conflict with your interests, and maybe you have a different opinion of the issue.

With regard to the secret talks, (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin visited me in March this year, and Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] visited me before that. He whispered in my ear and told me: "We are holding secret negotiations, but nobody knows," and he told me that a very few of his colleagues knew about this. I kept silent and did not mention the matter even to my aides, so that the negotiations would remain secret.

Abu-'Ammar was in Egypt, and Rabin was with me a day later in Ismailia. Abu-'Ammar whispered in my ear and asked me to tell Rabin that instead of offering Gaza alone they should also offer something from the West Bank, so that it would not be said that the Palestinians accepted Gaza and left the West Bank. I found his view logical. Abu-'Ammar told me: This is between me and you. I told him: OK. You told me something between me and you, and I will not announce it publicly, because I am not entitled to do so and I would spoil the issue, which is proceeding correctly.

I spoke to Rabin, and he told me that they were engaged in secret negotiations and that they made it conditional to the PLO that Egypt should be in the picture. I mentioned to him the Gaza and Jericho issue and he said that it should be raised at the negotiating table in order to facilitate the process. When he (Rabin) does not reject something, I know the issue can be discussed.

The secret negotiations started, and we knew nothing about their details. We heard about the talks but did not ask about the details until we heard that they had reached an agreement and signed in Oslo. (Foreign Minister Shim'on) Peres was with them.

A few days later Abu-'Ammar arrived in Alexandria. He said that they had reached an agreement on Gaza and Jericho. I told him that President Hafiz al-Asad should be informed lest he get annoyed. Abu-'Ammar said that he had been trying for a month to meet President al-Asad to put him in the picture, but he "does not want to meet me."

I told him: If you have no objection, I will talk to President al-Asad, and you can go and meet him today. We were sitting on the balcony, so I went to my office and spoke to President al-Asad over the telephone so that if he said he did not want to meet 'Arafat, we would not increase the differences. President al-Asad told me that his officials were studying the subject. I told him: Never mind, brother Hafiz, I will send him (Abu-'Ammar) to you on Saturday. He proposed that we should leave the (Egyptian and Syrian) foreign ministers to agree a date. I told him: Brother Hafiz, I am talking to you. Shall I send him Saturday or Sunday? He told me to send him Sunday. President al-Asad is a friend. There are cordial and strong relations between us, and there is informality between me and him.

Abu-'Ammar went [to see al-Asad] on Sunday and returned to tell me we did well. I asked whether he had explained everything to President al-Asad. He said, yes. I did not go into the details, because matters were proceeding well.

He went to Syria Sunday and was with me Monday. On Thursday, Abu-'Ammar returned to Cairo and told me about a disagreement between him and Rabin as a result of a clause in the [PLO] covenant (against Israel's existence). I told him: Listen, Abu-'Ammar: Why don't you sit down with the Israelis, and we will bring Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst for you. He told me he had no objection. So I entrusted Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa with contacting Peres and proposing to him that they meet again so that the agreement would not fail at the last moment. On that day the foreign minister gave me a paper containing the clauses of the agreement, which I read for the first time. We spoke to the Norwegian foreign minister and they agreed to hold the meeting in Paris. They went to Paris, and we were in constant contact—over the telephone—with our Palestinian brothers.

[Al-Khazin] That goes back to early September.

[Mubarak] It goes back to Thursday 9 September. They went there and met on Friday and contacted us on Saturday morning. 'Amr Musa told me they had reached an agreement. We did not ask how they reached the agreement, because what is important is to reach an agreement, and congratulations to them. Maybe they do want to tell us [about it]. If they do, fine. But if I am asked to help, I will not be able to help until I know the picture, so that I can talk the other party.

Anyhow, I found out that they were preparing to go to Washington. They traveled Saturday and signed Monday. This is the full picture, and do not believe anything else.

[Al-Khazin] That was the story, but President 'Arafat says the imprints of Egyptian diplomacy are clear in the agreement.

[Mubarak] Listen, one person says one thing, and another person says another. But that was the sequences of events as they happened. We did not attend the secret talks at all, nor do we know their details. I am not blaming the PLO for holding secret talks. If there is benefit in that, there is no objection. We knew about them but did not go into the details, because nothing is hidden.

[Al-Khazin] What is your opinion of the agreement, now that you have learned the details?

[Mubarak] I have always sought to secure the world's recognition of the PLO. And a problem occurred between me and the U.S. Administration in King Husayn's presence when the Americans insisted that King Husayn was the Palestinians' representative. I was on an official visit, and King Husayn was there after an official visit. We met with the Americans at a lunch

banquet attended by (Ronald) Reagan, (George) Shultz, and (Caspar) Weinberger. I sat and listened. King Husayn told me I knew the circumstances better. I told them: I will tell you something in front of King Husayn—he cannot speak in the name of the Palestinians because the PLO is their sole legitimate representative in accordance with an Arab League resolution and Jordan's approval, and no one can change this resolution. The Americans got annoyed. An argument took place between us, and it was a problem.

Recognition of the PLO is a positive point. Another positive point is taking part of the West Bank with Gaza. But it is merely a beginning. It is an advanced point on the road, but the difficult negotiations are yet to come, and the obstacles are numerous. What are we going to do with the settlements? What form will the administration take? What will be the fate of the West Bank? What will be the fate of Jerusalem? If we go back to the days of Camp David, there were 50 settlements and the process was easy. But now there is over 180 Israeli settlements and the process is very complex.

[Al-Khazin] Do you expect a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation or even a Palestinian-Israeli confederation, or a Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli confederation to be established, as Peres said recently?

[Mubarak] One of these probabilities will take place eventually. The countries are intermingled. For example, you find Palestinians in Jordan and Jordanians in Palestine, and they "are cleverer than one another." [implication is that "they are both intelligent and should go ahead and form a confederation] We are saying "confederation" in order to facilitate matters, but no one knows now whether they will end up together.

[Al-Khazin] As the president of Egypt, do you welcome a confederation?

[Mubarak] Very much, and very happily. I accept anything that leads to a just peace, handover of the land, and a solution to the Jerusalem problem. But we must understand that it is not possible at all for the land to be returned at once or in one step. We tried and got very tired. The Tabah issue was resolved by war, negotiations, and international judiciary. We began the war in 1973 and the negotiations early 1974 and then reached al-Sadat's initiative in 1977. We did not recover all the territory until 1989. The Tabah issue took eight years. From 1967 to 1973 and then to 1993, that is about 25 years. The land cannot be recovered in one minute.

[Al-Khazin] Do you believe that Egypt will benefit when peace is established, or will interest in the region—and hence international interest and investment—decline?

[Mubarak] I do not believe so. Egypt remains the largest state in the region with its population, culture, and capabilities. We have scope here that is not available in the other parts of our Arab world.

[Al-Khazin] But investments will be distributed in more than one country if peace is established.

[Mubarak] International investments existed in Israel before the peace. With regard to Gaza and the West Bank, which have 2 million inhabitants, investments in them will be commensurate with their size.

[Al-Khazin] After self-rule, will there be coordination with its Palestinian administration against the extremist organizations along the lines of the coordination with Algeria and Tunisia?

[Mubarak] We coordinate with any state in which extremism could affect us, that is, with the Palestinians, Algerians, or others. Fundamentalists will destroy Islam. The extremist views we hear have nothing to do with Islam at all. All religions advocate tolerance and love. Those people are criminals. We have their criminal records. They receive money from abroad. We find money on them. It is all to do with money; they professionals.

[Al-Khazin] You are going to see President al-Asad in an hour or two. What advice will you give him? Or what do you expect will be discussed between you?

[Mubarak] No, listen: President al-Asad is an old friend and served with us in Inshas. And I was alongside him in Bilbays. We know one another very well. We do not sit together and give each other advice. We exchange views. I listen to his opinion of this or that issue then I offer my opinion. If he has good views, I benefit from them. If I have good views, he benefits from them. If there is an opportunity to help him, I do not hesitate to do so at all. And I can help him, because I have relations with the United States and Israel. And if any of the cordon states seeks help, I am completely willing to help.

[Al-Khazin] Did the message which Minister 'Amr Musa carried to the United States have anything to do with the Syrian side of the negotiations?

[Mubarak] Of course. Syria is a state with which we have long-standing relations. There is a history of cohesion between the Egyptian and Syrian peoples. So we must remain with Syria. I spoke to the Israelis about Syria, and Rabin told me that he cannot move in two direction at once, so I told him, I disagree with you.

[Al-Khazin] Did you speak to the Americans about Syria?

[Mubarak] I spoke to the Americans, and President Clinton asked my opinion and I expressed it to him.

[Al-Khazin] Do you believe that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement weakens or strengthens the Syrian negotiating position? And when will Syria and Israel reach an agreement?

[Mubarak] We must reach an agreement between Syria and Israel. It is meaningless for the situation to continue any longer, but I do not know what the obstacles are. I might know them today (Wednesday) from President al-Asad.

[Al-Khazin] Do you expect a solution this year?

[Mubarak] I had expected that something would happen this year. I have said that on more than one occasion. And we must achieve solutions this year. A declaration of principles for the Palestinians and an agreement for the Jordanians. And Syria must get something. After I meet with President al-Asad we will work together and support one another as much as we can.

[Al-Khazin] Syria has not rejected the Palestinian-Israeli agreement but has reservations about it. Its position could impact negatively on Lebanon at the security and economic level. Do you think that Lebanon will reach an agreement with Israel before or after Syria?

[Mubarak] Maybe together. We are interested in Lebanon just as we are interested in Egypt and Syria. I spoke with the Israeli prime minister about Lebanon and raised some points with him, but they are not for the media at present. I spoke about Lebanon with both Syria and also with the U.S. President at my first meeting with him.

[Al-Khazin] Will you ask President al-Asad to take responsibility for its [Lebanon's] position as well as Syria's position?

[Mubarak] Lebanon should be excused. The forces in play there are the ones which shook Lebanon. I will speak to President al-Asad as much as I can.

[Al-Khazin] Which Arab states do you expect will establish diplomatic relations with Israel now?

[Mubarak] I have no definite information but I hear rumors. I do not believe that the Gulf states' circumstances allow them to do anything of that kind, but I have heard something about Morocco and Tunisia.

[Al-Khazin] We have talked about coordination between Egypt and Syria. I now ask you about coordination between Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

[Mubarak] I speak with King Fahd continually. We coordinate with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and all the Gulf states and we put them fully in the picture.

[Al-Khazin] Does your coordination cover the attitude toward the Americans?

[Mubarak] The Americans contact them and us. There is coordination between us and the Saudis on all matters and not just the peace process. We have major links with Saudi Arabia. Contacts have continued despite past cool periods.

[Al-Khazin] Let us turn to Libya. We wish to ask you about the Lockerbie issue and the Egyptian mediation in that connection.

[Mubarak] We, by God, knew about the issue before they did and before it was made public. I was on a visit to England two years ago in July. They raised the issue with

me. I asked them to keep the matter secret until we had looked into it but in November they announced it and so did the Americans.

I feared a military operation against Libya and made considerable efforts. I spoke with (President George) Bush twice on the telephone while he was in Europe. He was convinced of my viewpoint despite the tremendous pressure put on him by the families of the victims.

I asked Colonel al-Qadhafi about the matter and whether Libya had anything to do with it. He denied that. Since then we have been in contact with the Americans, the British, and the French. There is hope of relaxation in the next few days.

[Al-Khazin] Are you talking about trial of the Libyan suspects in Scotland?

[Mubarak] They [the Libyans] sent some questions to the United Nations. There will be no handing over (of the suspects) but they might volunteer to travel abroad to prove their innocence.

[Al-Khazin] Did Libyan Arab League Representative Ibrahim al-Bishari discuss this issue with you when he met with you yesterday?

[Mubarak] No, the meeting was on a completely different matter. I have decided not to go to the United Nations to deliver a speech around the end of September because of the referendum scheduled to take place two days later.

[Al-Khazin] Is there an agreement to hand the suspects over to Scotland?

[Mubarak] There must be agreements and guarantees but I do not know what they are. It is not a question of handing them over. If I was in Libya's place I would not have been able to hand the suspects over, but the superpowers insist and the solution is that they volunteer to travel and stand trial to prove their innocence.

[Al-Khazin] Let us move on to Sudan. Has the situation between you changed since Sudan's name was added to the list of states which sponsor terrorism and Sudan's growing need for Egypt's help to remove its name from that list?

[Mubarak] We have cordial relations with the Sudanese brothers. They caused some problems some time ago and we offered them advice once, twice, three times, but nobody listened to us. During the latest African summit conference we talked about everything. I do not want to talk about the training camps now because that issue has subsided and so have their relations with Iran. We want Sudan to be comfortable and to rectify its affairs, and it is capable of doing that.

[Al-Khazin] Are you saying that the terrorists training camps issue has now subsided?

[Mubarak] The fundamentalists came from Iran. They were originally in Afghanistan. Iran trained and financed them and then sent them to us through Sudan and Yemen.

[Al-Khazin] What is the level of Egyptian-Iranian relations today?

[Mubarak] There are no relations. I tried to establish good relations with them but they are strange. They wanted relations at the ambassadorial level. Then they disagreed among themselves, that is the hardliners and the moderates, and then came back to us seeking the establishment of cultural relations as they did with Sudan. I concluded that they were playing games, so I refused. Each party should respect and not interfere in the internal affairs of the other. We could interfere and play games but we do not because we uphold the noninterference principle and we do not want to squander the struggling people's money on such matters.

[Al-Khazin] Does Iran still provide aid for the extremist groups?

[Mubarak] They have said that they have allocated \$500 million for these matters. These are their own statements, not intelligence reports. Why do they not spend the \$500 million on their people who are experiencing very difficult economic conditions?

[Al-Khazin] It seems that the Damascus Declaration has been frozen. We have heard nothing about it recently. What is your information on that?

[Mubarak] My information is similar to your information. If the parties concerned are interested then I say welcome, and if they are not, I do not care. The Kuwaiti National Assembly speaker came here once and said that the Damascus Declaration was nonsense. I replied: Well, why did you not say so before?

[Al-Khazin] Let us now talk about Egypt itself. Is it true that relations with the United States are cool?

[Mubarak] Some people said so after the 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman case but I can tell you that U.S.-Egyptian relations are good. The U.S. President has contacted me several times for consultations and he said that he wished to meet with me soon. There may have been some coolness at the beginning when the new administration took over because we did not understand one another but now everything is crystal clear to both sides. When Clinton assumed power I did not know him but I had known Bush since he was vice president. We have talked to Clinton about aid for Egypt and he promised that it would not be affected. I believe that personal relations facilitate matters.

[Al-Khazin] But there is a tendency in the United States to cut foreign aid to Egypt and Israel after 1996.

[Mubarak] God will help after 1996.

[Al-Khazin] Have you taken the possibility of a cut in aid into consideration?

[Mubarak] We take everything into consideration in our planning for the future.

[Al-Khazin] In reply to a previous question, you said that you will not go to the United Nations because of the referendum. The outcome of the referendum is a foregone conclusion. Do you expect your third term of office to be more difficult or easier than the first two?

[Mubarak] I thought it would not be right for me to go to the United Nations on 29 September to spend just one night there and then come back for the referendum. That would be tiring. All terms are difficult and full of responsibilities. It has been my destiny to rule Egypt in most difficult circumstances. We have achieved much but there is much more to be accomplished. We had half a million telephone lines of which 300,000 were out of order. Businessmen had to travel to Cyprus for international calls. Now we have 2.8 million lines and you can call anywhere in the world. Work on the infrastructure is the most important. We are still working and there is still a long way to go. The sewage system in Cairo alone costs 7 billion pounds and Alexandria's sewage system cost 3 billion pounds. Our electricity capacity has jumped from 18 billion to 75 billion kilowatts in 10 years. Egypt first had electricity in 1906. By 1981 we only had 18 billion kilowatts which increased to 75 billion kilowatt in 10 years. Have you seen the desert road?

[Al-Khazin] The old desert road?

[Mubarak] It used to be a single lane. Now it is a two-lane highway and the area is now an agricultural area. There is also the Cairo-Suez road, the Cairo-Ismailia road, and the Sinai road. When I first came to Burj al-Arab the area was empty. Now there are about 28 tourist villages in al-'Alamayn. After the revolution and the agricultural reform we cultivated 924,000 feddans. Now we have reclaimed 2 million feddans. We are now building a 100-km canal, financed by [United Arab Emirates President] Shaykh Ziyid, from the Nile to Sinai to reclaim 400,000 feddans there.

[Al-Khazin] What, in your view, will be the order of priorities in the next term?

[Mubarak] Continuation of development and reform, completion of the infrastructure, reforming the economy, and work for stability. I do not favor treatment with aspirin and sedatives, nor do I like to take the easy way out. I have chosen the difficult way so that the future generations will say: "that man did something for us."

[Al-Khazin] Reading Egyptian papers, I have noticed that the opposition parties have not supported your nomination for the presidency. Did that come as a surprise to you?

[Mubarak] No, the position of the opposition did not surprise me. They had to say no. The position of the Egyptian people is quite different. Had they not been

sure that I worked for their welfare they would not have supported me. I was reluctant. I had an inner conflict for six months from January. Another man would have been happy to be nominated to become president of the republic without knowing what fate had in store for him. In April 1981 President al-Sadat told me: Why not take over, my son? I replied: Take over what? The day you go I will be gone within a minute. I became vice president and, although it was a high post sought by many, I was not happy about it.

[Al-Khazin] Have you considered appointing a vice president to take some of the burden off your shoulders?

[Mubarak] The question of a vice president is not an easy matter.

[Al-Khazin] The Americans have a vice president.

[Mubarak] The American situation is quite different. The situation is different in our countries and regions. If we elected a vice president the country would be divided. The press wants a vice president so they can attack him. That is why I have said that when I choose a vice president he must be an exemplary person.

[Al-Khazin] Have you discussed this matter recently?

[Mubarak] No, and nobody knows my opinion. Our country is different from the United States.

[Al-Khazin] Have you considered encouraging the opposition to nominate someone to represent it?

[Mubarak] I wish I could. Let us be frank. They talk about assumption of power. Power is not a ranch that I can divide and distribute here and there. By all means, enter the elections and you will have deputies in parliament but the position of the president of the republic is sublime. You say there should be free, direct [presidential] elections and anyone should be able to nominate himself, but money would play a major part and an unqualified person would be elected, like what happened in Latin America.

[Al-Khazin] You have announced that there would be a cabinet reshuffle after the referendum. What are the details?

[Mubarak] That is natural because the government will resign.

[Al-Khazin] Will the change be minor or major?

[Mubarak] It could be either. We are in a stage of reform and we have two years. If I were to change all the ministers it would mean foiling the reform plan. Egypt had 104 governments between the years 1887 and 1977. Can any country in the world make progress with 104 governments in 100 years? Since becoming president I have changed 68 ministers.

[Al-Khazin] We have noticed that terrorist activities have receded since the attempt on the life of the interior minister two months ago. Do you expect that trend to continue?

[Mubarak] I hope so. We are firm on this matter. They are a group of criminals who know nothing about religion.

[Al-Khazin] There are some suggestions that the moderate religious trend, including such groups as the Muslim Brotherhood, should be allowed to form a party that would counter the extremists. What do you think of that?

[Mubarak] That is not possible. The law does not allow it. If we did that then there would be a party for the Christians and there would be religious conflict.

[Al-Khazin] Does the law prohibit religious parties?

[Mubarak] Yes, that is clear and I respect the law. I do not want religious conflicts between the various groups.

[Al-Khazin] But the Muslim Brotherhood is allowed some activity and expression ...

[Mubarak] Such as what?

[Al-Khazin] Such as issuing statements and distributing them by fax, and electing a general guide.

[Mubarak] If I discover anything illegal I would not let it pass (without accountability).

[Al-Khazin] Could we go back to your meeting with President al-Asad in less than an hour from now, and your position on the negotiations?

[Mubarak] We want to achieve a just solution for Syria under which it would regain all its territory. In return for giving back the territory, Israel wants diplomatic relations and normalization. We are discussing this matter with them. President al-Asad is coming now and I do not wish to discuss the matter before talking to him.

Foreign Minister Concludes Visit to Washington

Conveys Mubarak Message to Clinton

NC2509064093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] President Mubarak has sent a message to U.S. President Bill Clinton. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa handed President Clinton the message during their meeting in Washington last night.

Musa, who is currently visiting the United States, has stated that President Clinton gave him a message in reply to President Mubarak's. Earlier yesterday, Musa met with U.S. Vice President Al Gore, U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin, and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake. During the meeting, they discussed the situation in the Middle East, ways to give momentum to the peace process, and relations between Egypt and the United States.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a series of meetings with U.S. officials during his visit to Washington, including Senator Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate's Committee for Appropriations. They discussed the Egyptian-U.S. relations and the U.S. aid to Egypt. Musa also met with the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, led by Lee Hamilton. Members of the committee praised President Mubarak's role in concluding the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Musa has concluded his four-day visit to Washington and left for New York, where on Monday [27 September] he will deliver Egypt's speech before the new session of the UN General Assembly. He is also scheduled to meet with foreign ministers and officials from various world countries who are taking part in the session.

Comments on Talks, Peace Process

NC2509080893 *Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic* 0610 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Washington by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo in the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Good morning, Mr. Minister, and welcome to Voice of the Arabs.

[Musa] Good morning.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You have had extensive talks in Washington. Could you tell us the results of your visit?

[Musa] All the discussion focused on the peace process, Egyptian-U.S. relations, and the future stages of peace, whether in implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement or working on the other tracks. Naturally, the successive meetings President Mubarak has held with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, his meeting with President al-Asad, and his contacts with President Clinton and the results of these exchanges were the subject of discussion, study, and appreciation here in Washington.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Your current visit to Washington follows President Mubarak with the Palestinian president, the Israeli prime minister, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Did you convey any Egyptian proposals to the U.S. side?

[Musa] As you know, the two most important things or steps before us now in the peace process are, first, the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and there are many steps and issues that need to be done in this regard, and second, progress on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks in order for the peace process to see a major turn toward progress and toward taking the first steps that could gear the peace process toward a final settlement. This issue needs much activity, contacts, and preparations, and this is what we are trying to do to ensure that all steps are taken on the basis of the land-for-peace principle and are in accordance with the Arab constants.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Is there a specific U.S. view on how to make progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks as was made on the Palestinian and the Jordanian tracks?

[Musa] The view should be that of the parties themselves. Everybody is trying to assist, the United States in its capacity as a co-sponsor and we in our regional capacity and in view of our regional and international contacts. As for the parties themselves, they are the ones who are negotiating and who should have an idea of what they are supposed to be doing, in terms of the rights and obligations that need to be addressed.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You will take part in the 48th session of the UN General Assembly and deliver Egypt's speech on the occasion. Could you tell us the highlights of your speech before this session?

[Musa] We will talk about the international and regional situation, Egypt's position on the various issues, whether Arab, African, or international issues, including political and economic issues; the UN role, and the world situation in general.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Do you have a specific view on the UN role in the future under the new world order?

[Musa] It relates to the need to upgrade the work of the UN and its agencies, particularly in peacekeeping operations. In fact, there is much talk about the UN role in the fields of development, which faces many challenges; the UN role in security, and there are many challenges in this regard; and the political role of the UN, which is subject to much criticism. So, this is a major issue.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Talking about the UN, some say that the UN is assertive in one place and hesitates in another as far as international issues are concerned. What is your view on this matter?

[Musa] No, this is not the fault of the UN. The UN is nothing but a reflection of the centers of power in the world order. The UN is a legal entity. Its resolutions are adopted by vote, particularly in the Security Council, where a certain front, group, or country is in control. Thus, the UN mirrors this policy. So we cannot say that the UN is discriminating. The powers moving the UN are the ones that make this or that decision that you either agree with or criticize.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] We thank Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who is with us now on the telephone from Washington.

Significance of Clinton Message, Invitation Noted

NC2609071693 *Cairo MENA in Arabic* 0607 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM says U.S. President Bill Clinton's message to President Husni Mubarak expressing his appreciation for the role that Egypt and its president played in promoting the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and their general backing for the peace process includes an invitation to President

Mubarak to visit the United States. The paper says this has special significance at this particular time.

In an editorial today, AL-AHRAM notes that if President Mubarak responds to the U.S. President's invitation to visit Washington after the presidential referendum next October, this will be a good opportunity for the two presidents to agree on how to boost the peace operation on all negotiating tracks.

The paper says that the U.S. President's message to President Mubarak comes after intensive Middle Eastern activity for which Cairo was the venue. Last week Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad visited the city and expressed his views on the peace process. Before him Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin visited Cairo and gave his opinion of the peace process at the same time that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat was delivering a statement to the Arab League Council about the newborn Palestinian state.

AL-AHRAM emphasizes that the message Egypt delivered during all these meetings was that it is necessary to seize the available opportunity and move rapidly on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in order to attain solutions on all fronts.

Musa on South Africa, UN Resolutions, U.S. Aid

NC2509212793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has commended Nelson Mandela's call for the international community to lift the sanctions on South Africa, a call that Mandela made during his speech at the UN General Assembly yesterday. Mandela, the leader of struggle in South Africa, knows that the time is right for such a move, Musa pointed out.

Speaking to representatives of the Egyptian press in New York today, Musa said that African countries will hold consultations to agree on the steps that should be taken in this regard. Musa said that he will hold consultations with African foreign ministers whom he will meet during the General Assembly meetings in New York.

Concerning President Frederik de Klerk's announcement that he intends to apply for South Africa's membership in the OAU, Musa said that it is clear that the South African problem is steadily moving toward a solution and toward the establishment of a democratic and nonracist state, a goal that we always sought.

Musa expressed his belief that developments in South Africa, following the holding of elections, will allow the admittance of that country into the OAU. He added that the resolution freezing South Africa's membership in the United Nations is likely to be annulled in light of the recent developments.

The foreign minister pointed out that efforts are currently being exerted in the United Nations with a view to amending, rescinding, or postponing certain resolutions

that were passed by the UN General Assembly concerning the Middle East problem and the Palestinian issue, the latter issue being at the heart of Arab-Israeli conflict. He said that there are resolutions that are no longer necessary, such as the resolution calling for the convocation of an international peace conference for peace in the Middle East and the one calling for severing diplomatic relations with Israel. These resolutions, Musa said, are no longer needed following the mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO.

However, Musa added, there are other resolutions that should not be altered, such as those concerning the rights of Palestinian refugees, the right of the Palestinian people for self-determination, and the Jerusalem Is Arab [al-quds 'arabiyah] resolution. We do not see a change in any of these resolutions advisable right now.

The foreign minister referred to current proposals concerning the establishment of a free trade market in the region, a so-called Middle East market, saying that these proposals should be assessed in the light of similar common markets.

Concerning U.S. assistance to Egypt, Musa did not rule out the possibility that this assistance will be affected in the future, pointing to the increasing requests for U.S. assistance by other countries. Egypt, he added, should remain a leading force in development in the region.

Musa said that economic development cannot be separated from security considerations. Egypt, he pointed out, is currently examining the new security system [al-nizam al-amni al-jadid] and its relationship with the Arab security system. He expressed the view that political, security, and economic ties between Arab countries will receive a boost once the Arab atmosphere is cleared.

Musa Cited on Israel Approval of Plan With Syria

NC2709064893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 27 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel Approved in Principle a Settlement Plan With Syria," AL-AKHBAR cites Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa saying: The Israeli Government accepted the form of a plan for an Israeli-Syrian settlement. He said: The next few weeks will witness diplomatic activity to advance the negotiations on every track. Musa added that the United States is committed to making progress on every track to achieve a just regional peace. He said intense efforts are now under way to resolve the issues relating to the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

BBC Interviews Musa on Peace, Mubarak U.S. Visit

NC2709073393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT
27 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has highlighted Egypt's interest in the peace process.

This interest, he said, covers every track of negotiations with a view to achieving peace in line with constant Arab principles and in a manner that maintains Arab rights. This, he added, is a basic issue in Egypt's policy, hence coordination with the Palestinians, Syrians, or Jordanians.

In a statement to the BBC today, the foreign minister expressed Egypt's readiness to make every effort to advance the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track. He said consultations with the Syrian brothers are continuing on every level and Egypt is ready to provide any assistance to push the peace process ahead, because what concerns Syria concerns Egypt too.

Musa said the Syrians and the Israelis are prepared to support or continue the negotiations and want to see this process achieve results as soon as possible.

On President Husni Mubarak's upcoming visit to the United States, Musa said it is part of Egypt's intensive efforts and Egyptian-U.S. coordination or consultations on the peace process. He noted that the United States is the main sponsor of the process and has an extremely important role to play.

He stressed the importance of the United States continuing and activating this role as a full partner in the process, saying that all Arab parties welcome such an active role.

Musa said the peace process and ways to advance it—especially on the two tracks that have produced no specific results, the Syrian and Lebanese—will be a primary topic in President Mubarak's talks in Washington.

The foreign minister said any differences between Syria and Israel, whether on the Arab boycott of Israel or other issues requiring study and timetables, can be resolved at the negotiating table. He said the two sides should demonstrate flexibility to reach an agreement to end all the problems.

On an Israeli radio report yesterday that negotiations between Israel and the PLO will take place in Sinai, the foreign minister noted that the Palestinians and Israelis are now holding direct talks. He said: The two sides recognized each other and can communicate anything to each other. If Egypt is asked to do anything, we are ready to help, but they hold the negotiations. As for the place, in principle, we don't object to holding the talks in Egypt.

Egypt To Attend Conference in Washington in Oct

NC2509064693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 25 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AKHBAR AL-YAWM today writes that Egypt will take part in an international conference to be held in Washington from 14 to 17 October. The conference will discuss the future of the Middle East region in the wake of the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement.

Weekly Says Peres To Visit Egypt After UN Meetings

NC2509075093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT
25 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—The weekly AKHBAR AL-YAWM today quotes a responsible source as saying that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will visit Egypt after attending the UN General Assembly meetings in New York. The paper notes that the date of the visit will be set according to President Husni Mubarak's schedule in the coming period.

Prime Minister Meets With Palestinian Ambassador

NC2409145793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi met Palestinian Ambassador Sa'id Kamal today. Kamal said the prime minister informed him that, on President Husni Mubarak's instruction, Egypt is willing to provide expertise in electricity, police, and administration to train Palestinian cadres to prepare for Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho.

Kamal said Egypt expressed readiness to lay gas lines from Sinai to Gaza. He said Dr. Sidqi explained Egypt's efforts and contacts ahead of the foreign and finance ministers conference in Washington in early October to support the PLO in its implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord.

The ambassador pointed out that the PLO is conducting a census of Palestinians who left the Gaza Strip during the Israeli occupation and that Dr. Sidqi instructed Egyptian officials to facilitate the census. He said a Palestinian economic delegation will visit Cairo in the middle of next month to discuss Egyptian-PLO cooperation in the coming phase.

Spokesman: Ready To Host Palestinian-Israeli Talks

NC2709101093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0942 GMT
27 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Sep (MENA)—Official Foreign Ministry Spokesman Naji al-Ghatrifi has stated that Egypt is ready

to host Palestinian-Israeli talks to discuss implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement if the two sides agree.

He said in that case, Egypt will be ready to host the talks on its territory if they help to advance the peace process and make the negotiations succeed.

Interior Ministry Makes Moves To Fight Terrorism

Ministry To Apply UK Security Methods

NC2509140093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1226 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—Major General Ra'uf al-Minawi, public relations director at the Interior Ministry, said that during his recent visit to Great Britain he handed a message from Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi to Michael Howard, British secretary of state for the Home Office, on boosting cooperation between the interior ministries of both countries and exchange of visits and security information.

He added that his trip to Britain and Ireland has achieved its goals in getting acquainted with the most modern security media. He noted that approximately 80 percent of the media methods used in Europe to cover security incidents and cases are currently applied in Egypt. He said the advanced scientific methods used in Britain in the security media will be utilized when setting up an advanced media center at the Interior Ministry, work on which will begin in two months. [passage omitted]

Al-Alfi Details 'New Strategy'

NC2609182793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has explained that recent changes in the leadership of security agencies were meant to put the right man in the right place to guarantee optimal performance in confronting the terrorist elements who are still at large. He affirmed that this does not mean that the leaders who were changed were inefficient.

Speaking to reporters today after attending celebrations marking police training day, Major General al-Alfi pointed out that the new security strategy depends on an integrated information base in confronting the terrorist elements who violate the law. He said that the strategy will involve firm and strict security measures against unethical people who have no values, principles, or religion. He described terrorists as a band of criminals and murderers who ruin the land to destroy Egypt's economy and reputation.

Asked if it is possible to initiate a dialogue with extremists and outlaws, he said that there will be absolutely no dialogue with these criminals. The only dialogue is the one we can hold with young people to sensitize them and urge them to stand by the police in the face of these criminal elements, he said.

The interior minister was asked whether the Ministry has new information on terrorist organizations and their source of financing. He replied that the Ministry has picked new leads that will soon be made public. He affirmed that the new security measures will tighten the noose around this misguided clique. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the situation inside prisons and recent incidents there, the interior minister affirmed that order has been restored in prisons and that all regulations are being followed accurately without violations. He admitted that there were violations and lack of discipline and order in jails and that recent security campaigns sought to restore order.

The interior minister revealed that the Ministry is setting up an international media center linked with all world news agencies. This first precedent is designed to provide Arab and foreign news media with correct facts so that they will not publish reports that distort Egypt's image or misrepresent the police force, like some foreign media do.

Al-Alfi Replaces Asyut Security Chief

NC2409170393 Paris AFP in English 1552 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Asyut, Sept 24 (AFP)—Interior Minister General Hasan al-Alfi on Friday [24 September] replaced the security director of Asyut province, a fundamentalist hotbed in southern Egypt, police sources said.

There was no official explanation for the removal of General Mahmud 'Antar which comes after a spate of recent attacks, notably against policemen and Coptic Christians, in a region considered a stronghold of Muslim extremists.

It comes a day after gunmen killed a Coptic Christian police doctor near this city some 400 kilometers (248 miles) south of Cairo. [passage omitted]

General 'Antar, who had only served in his post for a few months, was transferred to the Red Sea region and replaced by that area's security director, General Majdi Basyuni. 'Antar was the fourth security director appointed to the Asyut region in a year.

On Monday, the interior minister revealed a new strategy to combat Muslim extremists whereby police must "take the initiative," adding that he would not tolerate the least negligence in anti-terrorism measures.

In another development, a leader of the al-Jihad organization said in comments published Friday that fundamentalist violence was a reaction to violence perpetrated by the Egyptian government and that it shed doubt on the efficiency of repression.

'Abbud al-Zumur, who is serving a 40-year jail sentence for involvement in the assassination of former president Anwar al-Sadat in 1981, said the Egyptian government's "dissuasive measures," notably hangings, to combat extremists were without effect.

From his prison cell, al-Zumur told the AL-SHA'B newspaper, which is close to fundamentalists, that extremist violence had not ended with the hanging of 27 Islamists.

Rather, the executions had led to stepped up violence, some of in the form of suicide operations such as the attack that almost killed the interior minister on August 18 and was claimed by the Tala'i' al-Fath (Vanguard of the Conquest) group, which has ties to the Islamic Jihad. [passage omitted]

Al-Zumur meanwhile accused Coptic Christians of plotting several deadly attacks in Cairo since February.

He said a Copt had admitted to investigators that a pro-western Christian organization was behind the attacks which left 20 people dead and 80 others wounded.

Policeman Killed by 'Islamic Militants' in Asyut

NC2509131293 Paris AFP in English 1222 GMT
25 Sep 93

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Sept 25 (AFP)—Islamic militant gunmen shot dead a policeman as he stepped out of his home in southern Egypt on Saturday [25 September] in an attack claimed by the outlawed al-Jama'h al-Islamiyah [the Islamic Group].

Two attackers opened fire with handguns on Anwar 'Abd-al-Halim, 50, outside his house in the village of Baqur, 17 kilometers (10 miles) south of the city of Asyut, a hotbed of Moslem fundamentalists, police said.

'Abd-al-Halim was part of a task force monitoring Islamic militants, police said, adding that they suspected members of the underground al-Jama'h al-Islamiyah were responsible.

Al-Jama'h al-Islamiyah claimed responsibility for the murder and several other recent attacks on policemen in a telephone call to AFP on Saturday.

A fundamentalist leader said that "al-Jama'h is responsible for the attacks that have recently occurred in southern Egypt."

He specified that the group killed a Coptic Christian prison doctor, Nabil Khalil Jayyid, on Thursday.

Of the seven policemen killed in southern Egypt this month, six have been assassinated in the province of Asyut, a militant stronghold 400 kilometers (250 miles) south of Cairo.

Asyut is the headquarters of the al-Jama'h al-Islamiyah, which along with another militant group, the Tala'i' al-Fath (Vanguards of Conquest), is fighting to overthrow the secular government of President Husni Mubarak and establish an Iranian-style Islamic state.

The al-Jama'h al-Islamiyah leader said that the attacks were a response to "torture and repression" of the organisation's members in jail.

He vowed to continue the fight against the government until it "revises its position vis-a-vis the al-Jama'h al-Islamiyah."

The campaign has claimed more than 200 lives since it started early last year. Some 71 militants, 56 policemen, 35 Coptic Christians, three foreign tourists and 36 passersby have been killed.

'Fundamentalist' Prisoners Riot in Turah Jail

NC2409204793 Paris AFP in English 2017 GMT
24 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, Sept 24 (AFP)—Rioting erupted in a Cairo prison on Friday [24 September] when Islamic fundamentalist inmates revolted against policemen searching their cells, leaving 37 militants and 10 policemen injured, police said.

The clashes took place at Turah prison in southern Cairo, when prisoners belonging to the outlawed Vanguard of the Conguest (Tala'i' al-Fath) tried to stop policemen conducting a search of their cells in the top-security wing.

Riot police intervened at the request of the prison authorities, and the fighting was stopped, police said. No weapons were used in the altercations.

The injured inmates are among four groups of Vanguard members are currently being tried on terrorism charges.

The organisation, an offshoot of the Islamic Jihad which assassinated President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981, wants to overthrow the Egyptian government and establish an Iranian-style Islamic Republic.

It was the third prison riot here in the last month. The last two also involved Islamic militants, and in the first incident, also at Turah, three prisoners were killed after clashes between Islamic militant political prisoners and common criminals.

Libya

Arab Congress Urges Rejection of UN Blockade

LD2609211893 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT
26 Sep 93

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Sep (JANA)—The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress addressed a call today to the masses of the Arab nation and the free people in the world in which it called on them to reject the blatant injustice which was imposed by some Western states on the UN Security Council so that the people in the Jamahiriyah would suffer from the unjust blockade and the weight of the unjust sanctions, and this because of nothing

but their adherence to their right to sovereignty and their non-submission to the imperialist forces.

The call pointed out that despite the Jamahiriya's compliance with the concept of international legality based on justice and respect of national sovereignty and the UN charters as well as its implementation of the requirements of resolution 731, the imperialist West insists on violating the sovereignty of an Arab country, a member of the Arab Maghreb Union, the Arab League and the UN, scorning all these regional and international organizations.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress stressed that the pressures and threats faced by the Jamahiriya are in fact addressed to the Arab nation, its regimes and masses. It stressed that the issue no longer is ambiguous or provides the excuse that the international balance is disturbed; the matter has become clear. Either there is a stance with the Arab people in Libya and a resistance to the Western threats or the resulting stance will be a cover-up for this Western scorn and aggression targeting a small and peaceful people grown use to their will and experience.

The call of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress called on the Arab nation to adopt a responsible pan-Arab stance which would have reactions on all [words indistinct] negative or positive in all cases.

Newspaper Calls for War Against U.S., Britain

LD2509165193 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT
25 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 25 Sep (JANA)—Today's edition of AL-SHAMS wonders: "Should our blood remain so cheap, and should we remain terrified whenever there is a car accident on a road in a city in the West because they would accuse us of masterminding the accident by putting sleeping pills in the driver's coffee?..."

"And should we keep on asking God to protect us from the storms of international legality and from the storms of the insolent Security Council resolutions and hide our anger by putting our nerves in deep-freeze in the face of such an outrage and aggression?"

The paper added in today's edition: The U.S. Administration and the British Government with impunity SHED the blood of Libyans in Tripoli and Benghazi following the incident in [one of] Berlin's nightclubs. However, has the U.S. Administration paid any compensation to those Libyan nationals who suffered permanent disability following the U.S.-British raids even though they discovered that Libya was not responsible and that there was no Libyan hand in the incident? And could the U.S. Administration or the British Government bring back those who died in the raids? The U.S. Administration and the British Government did not even bother to apologize even through the White House spokesman, whose name and address are not known to us.

The Americans, who are supported by the English, are accustomed to making us responsible for any incident and everything else that happens to take place, to such an extent that we would not be surprised if one day they make us responsible even for the storms which have been hitting the American Mid-West and for the fog in which Britain is shrouded—[former Italian Prime Minister] Andreotti's conscience woke up when he asserted that the West is now making the Libyans responsible even for the quakes in the Mediterranean.

The paper added: Once more the Americans and the British have come up with another accusation—the Pan Am crash over Lockerbie—after they waved this accusation left and right and took it east and west. We dealt with the story in a responsible spirit, with civility, and in a way praised by all and sundry. Yet they rejected it out of hand.

They refused to listen to us and refused any give and take with us. They only want us to listen to their speech as though it descended from heaven! [passage omitted]

Are we to remain frightened of any car accident, any time, anywhere on a street in a Western city—for they would not hesitate to accuse us of being responsible for the accident by drugging the driver? Are we to pray to God in every prayer to spare us the indignation of international legitimacy and UN Security Council resolutions?

Are we to go on hiding our anger and freezing our nerves in the face of such injustice, aggression and scorn? And above all is our blood so cheap? [passage omitted]

Our nerves have been tensed so much that we can bear no more. They have declared war on us, and so it is not possible for us to remain patient. The only thing left for us is to fight them and to smash their heads just like they smashed the skulls of our children, disembowelled our women, and did not respect our old people. Patience, as far as we are concerned, is a farce; self-restraint is a humiliation; and complaining to the United Nations is an insult. Pirates, gangsters, thieves! The Americans and the English understand only the language of blood, war, and the kindling of fire. This is their official language.

So we must address them with the language of bloodshed and breaking bones, return to our pre-Islamic tribal traditions and deal with them with the logic of revenge. Everyone should be responsible for avenging the blood of his child, father, uncle, brother, grandfather, wife, or friend. We must now declare war on the United States and Britain with all the weapons at our disposal, and fight with our teeth and nails. Let us take our revenge and announce that the time for jihad has come.

Malian President Arrives in Tripoli 24 Sep

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Konare

*LD2409172893 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1700 GMT
24 Sep 93*

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Sep—The brother leader of the revolution met President Alpha Oumar Konare of the Republic of Mali at noon today.

The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee of Unity, the Malian foreign minister and the adviser to President Konare.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Konare Hold Talks

*LD2509134493 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radio
Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Sep 93*

[Excerpts] A meeting was held last night between the brother leader of the revolution and Alpha Oumar Konare, president of the Republic of Mali. The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity and Malian Foreign Minister Mohamed Alousseni Toure. [passage omitted]

The meeting dealt with the bilateral relations of cooperation and the means to bolster and consolidate them in all spheres. Also international topics of mutual interest were examined.

Foreign Ministers Evaluate Ties

*LD2509192393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1738 GMT
25 Sep 93*

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 25 Sep (JANA)—A meeting that included the brother secretary of the General People's Bureau for Unity, Malian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohamed Alousseni Toure, and the Malian president's adviser Baba Aqib was held today. [passage omitted]

The meeting dealt with a reassessment of bilateral relations between the Great Jamahiriya and Mali in the economic, educational, media, and investments spheres.

Agreement was reached during the meeting on the practical bases for implementation of the contents of the joint Libyan Arab-Malian commission's minutes. Agreement was also reached on bolstering investments and giving impetus to trade exchanges in a way that will contribute to strengthening the Malian economy.

Joint Communiqué Published

*LD2609131893 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1115 GMT
26 Sep 93*

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 26 Sep (JANA)—A joint communiqué was published in both Tripoli and Bamako today following the visit of Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare to the great Jamahiriya. The following is the text:

At the invitation of brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great al-Fatih revolution; and in

order to bolster the relations of brotherhood, friendship, and solidarity between the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Republic of Mali, brother Alpha Oumar Konare, president of Mali, who was accompanied by an important delegation, paid a fraternal and working visit to the Jamahiriya from 23 to 26 September 1993. [passage omitted]

The guest briefed the brother leader on political developments in Mali and the serious policies and programs drawn up by his government to allow the Malian people to surmount the problems facing the country.

The Malian side expressed pride in the brother leader's role and positive contributions to consolidating stability and security in the region, particularly in northern Mali.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the growing and positive development in their strong relations and their fruitful cooperation, and asserted their determination to implement all signed agreements between the two countries and the measures agreed upon in the minutes of the fifth session of the joint committee for cooperation as well as the stipulations of the minutes that were signed in Tripoli on 22 September.

As far as the so-called Lockerbie problem and the imposed sanctions on the Libyan Arab people were concerned, the Libyan Arab side briefed the Malian side on all the great Jamahiriya's initiatives to find a just and honorable solution within the framework of its commitment to its rights drawn from its national sovereignty and its commitment to the values of security and peace, in such a way that would consolidate stability in the region. It also briefed the Malian delegation on the negative effects and the human and economic harm inflicted upon the Libyan Arab people and the neighboring countries.

The Malian side expressed support for the efforts which have been exerted in order to find a just, urgent, and honorable solution to this problem and reaffirmed its readiness as well as its commitment to exerting its efforts to find a solution which would preserve stability and security in the region; it urged, furthermore, the Libyan Arab side to continue in its efforts with all concerned parties to reach an acceptable solution to this problem. [passage omitted]

Education Protocol Signed With Mali 22 Sep

*LD2309162193 Tripoli JANA in English 1422 GMT
23 Sep 93*

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fateh [September] 23 [Jamahiriya News Agency]—A co-operation protocol between Libya and the Republic of Mali making provision for education, scientific research and professional training, was signed yesterday by the General People's Committee for Unity and the minister of higher education and scientific research in Mali, Charles Abdoulaye Danioko.

The protocol deals with co-operation in higher education and professional training, namely the exchange of teachers and educational materials, the establishment of a section for Arabic language research and studies [word indistinct] Mali and the setting up of an Arabic institute for professional training.

During the signing ceremony, Charles Abdoulaye Dan-ioko expressed Mali's solidarity with Libya on whom unfair sanctions have been imposed. He also referred to the long-standing historical relationship between the two countries.

Sudan

Statement Issued on U.S. Support for Garang

EA2409203893 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Sudan's embassy in Ndjamena, Chad, has issued a detailed statement about the U.S. Administration's decision to include Sudan on the list of states which Washington claims sponsor terrorism. In its statement the embassy rejected the reasons behind the U.S. decision and said they lack firm and convincing proof. The statement said that the American decision falls in line with America's rejection of Sudan's Islamic orientation. The embassy pointed out the U.S. Administration's support for the rebel John Garang against the Sudanese Government. It said this support for Garang comes at a time when the Sudanese Government is making serious and energetic efforts to solve the problem in the south peacefully.

Minister Denies Military Operations in South

EA2509151093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Sep (SUNA)—'Ali al-Haji Muhammad, minister in the Federal Administration Office and the official spokesman of the government in the peace negotiations, has denied the existence of military operations between the government and the rebels in the south of the country, clarifying that the ongoing conflict in the Kongor area is a tribal conflict.

Dr. 'Ali, who spoke on 23 September to a reporter from the Italian news agency, pointed out the receding of the rebellion in the equatorial state and (?moved to) [words indistinct] the areas of Kaia, Nimule, and Kajo Kaji. Dr. 'Ali confirmed the government's eagerness to resume negotiations with the outlaws inside the country, pointing out the positive results achieved by the Fashoda negotiations with the United faction. He explained that the progress of the negotiations was represented by the United faction moving towards federalism after initially basing its case on secession.

Dr. 'Ali explained that in the event of intransigence by the faction of the rebel Garang to respond to dialogue,

the government will not waver in implementing its agreement with the United faction.

Dr. 'Ali pointed out that the government's reservation towards the peace initiative of the former American president, Jimmy Carter, springs from the American positions that are opposed and hostile to Sudan and their clear alignment with the rebel Garang, adding that the initiative cannot be useful unless America changes its aggressive position towards the Sudanese Government.

Energy Minister Reports Security Restored in Kurdufan

EA2609161293 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers, met in his office today at the Council of Ministers Lieutenant Colonel Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, member of the RCC and minister of energy and mining. Lt. Col. Salah Karrar stated after the meeting that he had briefed Lt. Gen. al-Bashir on the results of his recent visits to Kaduqli and Dilling provinces in southern Kurdufan. His Excellency noted that security had been restored in those provinces and in the surrounding areas. He said that during the visit he had repeated the declaration by the chairman of the RCC and of the Council of Ministers of general amnesty for all returnees from the rebel movement.

Minister Taha Claims War in South Not Religious

EA2609153993 Khartoum SUNA in English 0905 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Sep (SUNA)—Minister of Social Planning 'Ali 'Uthman Taha has stressed that war in the south is of a political nature and not a religious one, stressing that Sudan will continue efforts to reach peace through negotiations despite obstacles.

At a meeting here Saturday [25 September] with the envoy of [the] pope, Taha said that his ministry is responsible to guarantee [the rights of] both Muslims and Christians in Sudan, adding that all the Sudanese citizens are practising their rites in complete freedom.

Tolerance is of the Sudan nature, Taha said, pointing out that the recent visit of Pope Paul [John Paul II] to the Sudan contributed to pushing forward dialogue between Muslims and Christians, stressing the necessity of continuing such visits.

The pope envoy is visiting the Sudan in response to an invitation from the Sudanese church to continue the dialogue started during the pope visit.

Pope envoy visits Sudan on the other hand the archbishop of the Two Martyrs Church and chairman of the preparatory committee of religions committee held in Khartoum last April, Philo Thouth Fara [name as

received] said that the committee is preparing a message to be sent to U.S. President Bill Clinton demanding dropping the decision that added Sudan to the countries the USA alleged sponsor terrorism [sentence as received]

Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] General 'Umar al-Bashir will be acquainted with the message Faraj [name as received] said, adding that the message is aiming at starting a dialogue with the USA to refute any allegations against Sudan. The preparatory committee received a letter from the USA alleging that one hundred Christians were killed, he said, confirming that these are fabricated news. The committee held a meeting Saturday with the Minister of Peace 'Abdallah Deng [Niyal] and acquainted him with a report on the religions conference.

Delegation Leaves for African Summit in Tunis

EA2609191593 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, chairman of the Transitional National Assembly, has left with a high-level parliamentary delegation for the Tunisian capital to participate in the 16th conference of the African Parliamentary Union and the 30th session of the union's council.

Shortly before leaving, Khalifah made a statement to the press in which he praised the efforts of the states of the horn of Africa to solve the problem in southern Sudan by means of dialogue. He said the meeting would concentrate on African problems; to find solutions to them so as to put an end to rebellions and separatist movements affecting the continent. Khalifah stressed that the Sudanese delegation would continue what the parliamentary delegation had begun in the Australian capital, Canberra, in giving an account of Sudan's stance towards the outrageous American accusation that Sudan supports terrorism.

He went on to say that the meetings of African parliamentarians in Tunis will seek to deepen relations between African parliaments and to strengthen Africa's resources for resisting challenges. Replying to a question on latest developments in Africa and the Gaza-Jericho accord, he stressed that the African parliamentarians would work towards bringing about the continent's solidarity and steadfastness in the face of all issues affecting the continent.

In reply to another question on African parliamentary relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's consultative council, Khalifah said the latter was a consultative parliament. He said Sudan, by virtue of its active role in the International Parliamentary Union and the Union of Western Parliaments, would support the integration of the Saudi consultative council into those two parliamentary bodies inasmuch as there was a place for it. It is worth noting that the conference of the African Parliamentary Union will continue until 2 October.

Chechen Delegation Signs Cooperation Agreements

EA2409170893 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Sep—A delegation from the Chechen Republic, one of several republics which used to make up the former USSR, has ended a visit to Sudan of several days. A number of agreements were concluded between Sudan and the Chechen Republic in the fields of politics, education, petroleum, agriculture, trade, and aviation. The delegation also met with the minister of higher education [words indistinct] and visited with students working in the fields of applied sciences and Islamic studies.

Cooperation agreements between Sudan and the Chechen Republic cover different areas of the petroleum industry, including prospecting, drilling, and the provision of drilling equipment. The two sides agreed to cooperate in the areas of agriculture, industry and trade, specifically in the establishment of joint companies concerned with honey and fisheries.

Tunisia

Ben Yahya, Christopher Discuss Peace Process

LD2509222593 Tunis RTT Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya had talks in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. [passage omitted]

The talks dealt in particular with bilateral relations, which the two officials described as excellent both now and in their future prospects. The U.S. secretary of state accepted an invitation extended to him by the minister of foreign affairs to visit Tunisia as soon as possible. The talks also permitted an exchange of views about the development of the peace process in the Middle East in light of the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Both sides stressed the need to provide political and financial support for efforts to develop and rebuild the Palestinian territories within the framework of this agreement. [passage omitted]

Israeli Foreign Ministry Delegation Ends Visit

TA2409163093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Sep 93 p A4

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] The members of the Israeli Foreign Ministry delegation ended their visit to Tunis yesterday after concluding with the local authorities arrangements related to the multilateral committee on refugee affairs slated to commence on 12 October.

Yosi Gal, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry, said in a telephone conversation from Tunis yesterday that the Tunisians accepted most of Israel's requests, but refused to permit direct phone contact between the two countries for the duration of the session. The Tunisian officials said that the request cannot be met due to technical considerations. [passage omitted]

Egypt's al-Baz Conveys Mubarak Message to Ben Ali

LD2509143293 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning received at the Carthage Palace Mr. Usamah al-Baz, political adviser to Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian president's special envoy to his excellency the president. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting Usamah al-Baz made a statement in which he said that he had the honor of meeting with his excellency the president, and that he had conveyed to his excellency a message from his brother President Husni Mubarak in connection with the excellent bilateral relations that are continuously being consolidated between the two countries. He said that the message also relates to the situation in the Arab homeland, particularly the recent development in the peace process and the entire situation and relations in both the Arab Maghreb and Arab East.

French Minister Ends Visit, Comments on Immigration

LD2509213093 Tunis RTT Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Charles Pasqua, French minister of state for interior and regional development, has ended his visit to Tunisia. At a news conference before leaving Tunis, he said that the outstanding event of his visit was his audience with President Ben Ali, to whom he conveyed a message of friendship and appreciation from Prime Minister Balladur and the French Government and expressed the French Government's desire for further development of the important and high-quality cooperation between Tunis and France in all fields. Mr. Pasqua said that he had listened with utmost interest to President Zine El Abidine's analysis of the situation in the region and the future developments which he envisioned. [passage omitted]

Tunisian television had an exclusive interview with Charles Pasqua. In answer to a question on the subject of immigration and the proposal made by Tunisia on many occasions to establish projects within the framework of the two countries' partnership and joint development in order to reduce immigration by creating job opportunities [in Tunisia], Mr. Pasqua said that he supported these Tunisian proposals. He invited French enterprises to invest in the Arab Maghreb countries with the aim of creating more opportunities for work and stability.

In this interview with Tunisian television, Charles Pasqua recalled that France has precise laws and regulations for the right of political asylum, but there are those who tried, under the cover of asylum, to commit acts that harmed France's relations with the friendly countries to whom these people belong. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Libyan Ambassador Declared Persona Non Grata

LD2509144893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1345 GMT
25 Sep 93

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Sep (KUNA)—Kuwait's Foreign Ministry has summoned Libyan Ambassador Husni Salih al-Mudir and informed him of its decision to consider him persona non grata.

A Foreign Ministry statement said that Foreign Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin acquainted the Libyan ambassador with a memorandum sent today by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, state minister for cabinet affairs and acting foreign minister, to Secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Jum'ah al-Fazzani.

The statement said that the memorandum, which was delivered by Musa'id al-Thuwakh, Kuwaiti acting charge d'affaires in Libya, demanded that the Libyan ambassador be removed from Kuwait immediately.

The statement made clear the decision was based on the consideration that the Libyan ambassador is responsible for the conduct of the Libyan Embassy in Kuwait. The measure was taken because the Libyan Embassy played a tape in a public place on the occasion marking Libya's national day last Tuesday. The tape was offensive to sister members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and angered officials, who withdrew from the celebration.

In the memorandum, Kuwait asserted that inter-Arab relations should be distanced from such conduct and rejected being in a place where brothers are insulted.

The statement said that al-Shahin's meeting with the Libyan ambassador took place in the presence of Sulayman al-Fassam, director of the [Foreign Ministry's] Arab homeland desk.

Motives Behind UK Press on BP Shares Viewed

LD2609095193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0747 GMT
26 Sep 93

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Sep (KUNA)—Two Kuwaiti dailies, in today's editorials, reject the issue raised by a recent London FINANCIAL TIMES report on Kuwait's investments in Britain, particularly over the purchase of British Petroleum shares.

AL-QABAS and AL-SIYASAH recall in this respect the statement made by Kuwait's General Investment Authority in reply to the FINANCIAL TIMES report, published last Friday, which purported that Kuwait had misled Britain when it was buying shares in the British Petroleum Company between 1987 and 1988.

AL-QABAS questions the aims of raising the issue of Kuwaiti investments in Britain at this moment and asks whether it is coincidence that such an issue was raised

suddenly or if it is another link in the chain of events that are aimed at ending whatever is left of Kuwait's financial power.

AL-QABAS adds: "It is clear that whoever was behind this attack on Kuwait's investments abroad in general, and in Britain in particular, is aiming at stirring up problems for Kuwait at a time when everyone is trying to rebuild and forge unity." The paper points out that Kuwait is also aware that the British people are the ones who are being misled over Kuwait's purchase of shares in British Petroleum.

AL-SIYASAH says this story is an attempt to reveal an exhaustion of Kuwaiti funds, and that this story gives a clear indication "of a spirit in the West of blackmailing Kuwait that should not be ignored, especially as some quarters there suffer from a feverish greed in relation to the Gulf and its financial resources."

AL-SIYASAH describes this issue as being part of a world-wide campaign targeting the funds of the Gulf, citing in this context the recent fabrications against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which was described as being on the verge of bankruptcy. It says that the fuss about the British Petroleum deal and Kuwait's shareholding reminds it of the fuss raised at the time on Kuwait's major shareholding in the company.

AL-SIYASAH stresses that the situation calls for extreme caution and meticulous observation of laws and sensitivities in order to safeguard Kuwaiti investments, for these investments are not grants from the West, but a good case for mutual cooperation and benefit.

Oman

Minister Reiterates Support for PLO Decision

JN2709081893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
27 Sep 93 pp 1, 17

[By Sulayman al-Barmawi]

[Excerpts] Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawas has stressed his country's support for the Palestinian Arab people's decision to achieve their national identity on their Palestinian national soil. He pointed out that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement (declaration of principles) is a decision which concerns the Palestinian people first and foremost.

In an exclusive statement to a correspondent of SAWT AL-SHA'B in Muscat yesterday, al-Rawas hoped that a new dawn for the Arab nation will break. He said that the fraternal Sultanate of Oman pursues a national, Arab policy aimed at removing the negative effects of the Gulf crisis between Arab brothers.

The Sultanate of Oman seeks to talk other Arab countries into adopting Oman's policy in this regard, which reflects Oman's principled, constant stance toward important Arab issues. This stance gives preference to

mutual interests, noninterference in internal affairs, and constant rules for mutual respect.

The Omani information minister underscored Oman's clear, principled stance toward the peace process. Oman supports the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace and the restoration of rights, he said. He further asserted that achieving peace will represent a qualitative shift for the peoples of the region, promoting its security and stability. He said the government of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id will spare no effort to support peace and bring about accord. [passage omitted]

Al-Rawwas denied the Sultanate was asked to intervene to settle the dispute between Iran and the United Arab Emirates, asserting that they would like to resolve their dispute by themselves.

He noted that the Sultanate's relations with Iran are based on good-neighborliness, religion, mutual respect for national sovereignty, noninterference in internal affairs, mutual interests, and open, constructive dialogue.

United Arab Emirates

'Arafat Stops in Abu Dhabi En Route to Ankara

JN2509101893 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] His Excellency Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat stopped over at Abu Dhabi airport for one hour this morning on his way to Ankara from Jakarta.

He was welcomed and seen off at the airport by His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the deputy prime minister; His Highness Shaykh Sa'id Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the head of the Ports Department; and his Excellency Khalid Malak, the Palestinian ambassador in Abu Dhabi.

Yemen

Basindwah Discusses Border Disputes, Reconciliation

NC2409083893 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah in Sanaa, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Cairo on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Minister, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Basindwah] Thank you. I am very pleased to speak over the Voice of the Arabs radio, which has played a major role during the long stages of the pan-Arab struggle.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Minister, you recently signed a border demarcation agreement with Oman. Can you tell

us about the most important details of this agreement, and is it a prelude to other new agreements with the other Arab neighbors?

[Basindwah] When we signed the border demarcation agreement with our fraternal neighbor the Sultanate of Oman, we were fully determined to settle our border disputes with all our brothers. Only the border problem with Saudi Arabia remains. We hope to solve this problem soon, God willing.

The Yemeni-Omani border demarcation agreement was reached through protracted negotiations. Most of the points of dispute were patched up after the establishment of the Yemeni unity. The agreement was signed early in October 1992, and since then the two countries have implemented everything agreed upon. We are now studying a plan to build a highway linking the Sultanate of Oman with Yemen. This highway will contribute to boosting transportation between the two fraternal peoples. No doubt, those who know the history of Yemen and Oman are aware that Yemen and Oman were one country throughout history and enjoyed very strong ties. Also, we and our brothers in Oman descend from the same people. This is known in history.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Minister, you said that only the border problem with Saudi Arabia remains. Why do you call it a problem and what are the obstacles impeding the signing of an agreement similar to that signed with Oman?

[Basindwah] By calling it a problem I mean something that must be solved. However, we are working now to reach an agreement through an experts committee that holds talks from time to time. This committee will hold its sixth round of talks in Riyadh on 9 October. We hope to work out an agreement acceptable to both sides as we did with our brothers in Oman. Our brothers in Saudi Arabia are also our neighbors with whom we have eternal relations. We are intent on maintaining and strengthening these relations.

[Abu-al-Majd] In your opinion, are these agreements the end of existing problems or the beginning of a new stage in Yemeni-Gulf relations?

[Basindwah] Yemeni-Gulf relations are improving and this can be sensed by anyone following the course of these relations. However, border problems must not remain unsolved. They must be solved and their solution needs time. But any problem between brothers can be solved regardless of obstacles.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Minister, what about the Palestinian forces in Yemen? Will these forces remain there, or will they move to Gaza or Jericho? What is your position on the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Basindwah] The Palestinian forces stationed in Yemen are actually in their second homeland. But whether they stay or leave is a matter for the PLO leadership to decide. We will support what ever they decide. As to the agreement between the PLO and Israel, we support the

Palestinian brothers in what they decide. If they disagree, the opposition must still boost the negotiator's position.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are your views on the current inter-Arab reconciliation and the formula reconciliation and the free exchange of views?

[Basindwah] We in Yemen believe that reconciliation must take place first and then the free exchange of views. This is because reconciliation will prepare the appropriate atmospheres for a free exchange of views. But if the free exchange of views takes place first, this might preclude the achievement of reconciliation in certain cases. If we, as Arabs, are asked to be reconciled with our traditional foe Israel, had we better not be reconciled with each other?

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you, Mr. Minister.

[Basindwah] You are welcome.

President Salih Receives Omani Minister of State

JN2309181993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1211 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received brother Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs in the fraternal Sultanate of Oman, in al-Shihri in Hadhramaut governorate.

The Omani minister delivered to the brother president a message from his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. The message deals with brotherly relations and areas of cooperation between the two fraternal countries. The message also deals with developments in our Arab and Islamic nation and views on these developments. The brother president asked the Omani minister to convey a reply to his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, hoping for good wishes to the fraternal Omani people and close brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries.

Salih on Reform, PLO-Israel Pact, Saudi Border Issue

JN2509152993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has said this year's celebrations of the Yemeni revolution anniversary are special because they follow the parliamentary elections of 27 April 1993. These produced a parliament elected in accordance with a system grounded in political and party pluralism. The brother Presidential Council chairman made these comments in an interview published today in the YEMEN TIMES weekly. [passage omitted]

Asked about constitutional amendments, the Presidential Council chairman said a document had been signed by the parties to the tripartite coalition—the General

People's Congress, the Yemeni Socialist Party, and the Reform Grouping. He said this coalition is based on agreement on constitutional amendments. He noted that if no amendments are agreed on, a new Presidential Council will be elected by the House of Representatives in accordance with current Constitution.

Asked about our country's position on the Gaza-Jericho First agreement between the PLO and Israel, he said: We support the will of the Palestinian Arab people and the choice these militant Arab people have made and accepted. We had hoped for a better agreement. We had hoped that the Gaza-Jericho First agreement would have also included the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Asked about relations with Saudi Arabia and the border dispute with that country, the brother Presidential Council chairman said the Yemeni-Saudi disagreement is old, and concerns border problems rather than ('interests). He said: This issue began during the Gulf war because of alleged Yemeni ambitions. All this is unfounded. These are unjust [word indistinct] allegations. We have documents that prove this. For example, King Fahd said in a letter in December 1990 that the return of expatriates to Yemen and the situation that existed between Yemen and Saudi Arabia were not caused by the Gulf war, but by accumulations in Yemeni-Saudi border relations. This is the truth.

The brother Presidential Council chairman added: Aware of [words indistinct], we have announced frequently, since Yemen was united on 22 July 1990, that we are ready to resolve all border problems. We are prepared to resolve the border problems with our neighbors in Saudi Arabia and Oman in a manner that serves the rights of all parties. We hope advanced steps will be taken with our neighbors in Saudi Arabia to resolve the border problems, as were taken with Oman, in accordance with a no-victor, no-vanquished formula.

Brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih indicated that a Yemeni-Saudi technical committee is discussing this issue in accordance with international law. He added: This committee is continuing its meetings. Its last meeting was last month in Ta'izz. It will reconvene in Riyadh on 9 October. We hope it will reach satisfactory results for both parties, especially since there is a will to resolve this issue and since the Yemeni Government is prepared to settle this issue. We are ready to resolve those problems with Saudi Arabia, if it so wishes, in a manner that safeguards the rights of both parties. [passage omitted]

Salih Inaugurates al-Masilah Oil Shipments

JN2309193993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Excerpts] On this historic day in the life of the homeland and our people's developmental march, under the banner of revolution and unity, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, along with Presidential Council Member

brother Salim Salih Muhammad and Prime Minister Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, inaugurated our Yemeni people's celebrations of the Yemeni revolution—the 31st anniversary of the 26 September revolution and the 30th anniversary of the 14 October revolution. They marked the occasion by sending off the first shipment of oil from al-Masilah oil fields in Hadhramaut governorate.

The brother president, his companions, and the country's guests attended the grand ceremony in the [name indistinct] area in al-Shihr. [passage omitted] Before the ceremony began, the brother president was briefed on the components of the project, which produces about 120,000 barrels per day for export. Ten oil fields have been discovered so far in al-Masilah region in Hadhramaut governorate. These fields are connected by and oil dispersed through a central 138-km long, 24-inch wide pipeline with a 490,000-barrel capacity that extends from Wadi al-Masilah to the al-Shihr oil refinery. The pipeline also extends through the sea to a floating station with a capacity of 1 million barrels of oil.

The brother president, along with the member of the Presidential Council and the prime minister, then unveiled the project's commemorative plaque. After that, at a glorious and historic moment amid ululations and chants of happiness, the brother president turned the wheel of the export oil pipeline, announcing the export of the first shipment of oil from al-Masilah region in Hadhramaut governorate.

Later, the brother president attended a grand speech rally on the premises of the ceremony. The brother chairman of the Presidential Council delivered a speech during the ceremony. He began his speech by congratulating our people, on behalf of himself, members of the Presidential Council, the government, the legislative authority, and representatives of political parties and organizations, on the inauguration of this important developmental achievement which coincides with our people's celebrations of the 26 September and 14 October revolutions.

The brother president said: We inaugurate this [word indistinct] celebration of this great achievement. He noted that this project in which oil will be pumped from Hadhramaut governorate through the oil pipeline, which extends from al-Masilah region to the Arab Sea, with a production capacity of 120,000 barrels per day, adds 120,000 barrels which will support the national economy. [passage omitted] The brother president noted that with unity, which was achieved by our people, especially the General People's Congress, the Yemeni Socialist party, and the political parties and organizations on 22 May 1990, our people ended two totalitarian regimes and began a new phase, despite the negative aspects and the mistakes resulting from the merger of the two regimes. He said: We do not deny there are mistakes. However, these mistakes are not intentional. They resulted from the transfer from one stage to another. We,

as well as political parties and organizations, will learn from these negative aspects and mistakes. We are at the beginning of the road.

The brother president added: We are learning in the school of democracy. Democracy does not mean the misuse of words or creating grudges. It is construction. From this democracy, we learn how to converse or hold dialogues with each other, how to remove our political differences, and how we stand together for the sake of the nation and not for the sake of our interests or centers of power. [passage omitted] The brother president said: Our people should be armed with alertness and vigilance toward rumors by the enemies of unity and democracy. They are lying in wait to harm the Yemeni people's achievements. He noted that rumors about dividing Hadhramaut governorate into two governorates are not true. He said: We united the homeland and reunited the one Yemeni family. This brave governorate cannot be divided. Hadhramaut has its place in history and civilization, he added. He wished progress and prosperity to every one and the homeland.

Salih Addresses Nation on Revolution Anniversary

JN2509202993

[Editorial Report] Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 25 September carries, as the first item in the regularly scheduled 1700 GMT newscast, a 20-minute live or recorded "important political statement" Yemeni Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih addressed to the Yemeni people "tonight" on the 31st anniversary of the 26 September revolution. Reception varies from poor to unmonitored.

President Salih begins his statement by saluting and congratulating Yemenis on the occasion. He hails the multiparty general elections held in Yemen on 27 April 1993. He argues that many people expected Yemen's experiment in democracy to fail. Elaborating on this issue, Salih adds: "We were not concerned with the issue of which party or parties would achieve a majority. Our first and foremost concern was to see the experiment and Yemen succeed. Indeed, the experiment succeeded. We all accepted the election results. We respected the people's will regarding the peaceful exchange of authority. The experience of the coalition government has been a unique national experience that came about to promote higher national interests, and to reflect the basics of the Yemeni state of affairs. This experience has won the admiration of many world parties."

Salih commends the Yemeni opposition, saying no opposition can exist under a dictatorship, while a true democracy cannot exist without a strong and responsible opposition. He underlines the overriding importance of construction in Yemen, saying that all Yemenis must compete to promote Yemeni interests. He also urges them to work together to fight corruption and the corrupt. He also urges Yemenis to fight the parties opposed to Yemeni unity.

President Salih adds that the Yemeni people are asked to eradicate the effects of backwardness. He urges them to foster development, relying on their intrinsic resources. He adds: "Inflation and increasing population growth rates are some of the key problems we face as a developing society. This requires an increase of production over consumption. It also requires greater clothing, education, health, housing, electricity, and water services, not to mention other necessary commodities and services, which must be ensured [words indistinct] the negative effects manifested in price increases and population increase, compared to the true growth rate of the national economy. Hence, the government has committed itself before the legislative authority to drawing up a program of economic, financial, and monetary reforms."

Salih underlines the need to take advantage of the efficient technical cadres available at technical education facilities to foster development. He urges Yemeni capital to direct its investment to production and income-generating projects in order to "accommodate inactive potential in the society". He adds that Arab and foreign capital is being provided with every guarantee and facility to encourage it to invest in Yemen. He also urges the government to provide additional care to investors so they can expand their investment.

Presidential Council Chairman Salih also affirms the need to expedite efforts to complete the free-zone project in Aden, the economic and commercial capital of Yemen. He mentions the country's oil wealth as well as

the natural gas produced in Yemen. Salih notes that some 30 firms are persisting with oil prospecting activities in Yemen. He notes increasing oil production in the country. With respect to natural gas, Salih says: "The amount of gas reserves discovered at the Ma'rib basin has reached 15 trillion cubic feet. Several gas projects have been completed. The gas output has now reached [words indistinct] and the manpower used to implement the liquefied natural gas project, which will be built at a cost of \$2.5 billion. This project aims to produce 5 million tonnes of natural gas for export per year, not to mention the fact that 1 million tonnes of liquefied gas will be produced to generate electricity throughout the Republic, operate factories, and meet the agricultural sector's energy requirements. Projected revenues from the gas production and export project have been put at \$33 billion during the next 30 years."

President Salih acknowledges that oil and natural gas cannot, by themselves, meet the requirements of development and resolve economic problems. He adds that oil wealth in Yemen must be used to bring about prosperity in Yemen and promote agricultural production in the country. He urges all parties in Yemen to promote agricultural production.

Salih affirms that he trusts that the government will assume its development tasks and duties.

Finally, President Salih appreciates the efforts made by the security agencies to foster security and combat crime.

Government Agrees To Activate Monitoring Cameras*JN2409190493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1805 GMT 24 Sep 93*

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has sent a letter to Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission.

Following is the text of the letter:

Mr. Rolf Ekeus, executive chairman of the Special Commission, New York:

Your report submitted to the UN Security Council in accordance with the UN secretary general's memorandum S-26451 dated 16 September, 1993, included your request to the head of the Iraqi technical team, Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, for the immediate activation of the cameras at the al-Yawm al-'Azim and al-Rafah sites.

We would like to recall our position, which we spelled out during the talks we had in Baghdad in July, 1993, and which was set out clearly in the position paper we submitted to you and through you to the Security Council.

Executing the steps related to continuing monitoring must, in line with our position, be subject to the Security Council honoring its commitments toward Iraq in line with the provisions of Resolution 687 of 1991, led by lifting the embargo on Iraq.

Our position on this matter is unchanged; it is based on the provisions of Resolution 687 and the rules of legitimacy, justice, and fairness.

Following the agreement reached in Baghdad in July, 1993, technical high-level talks were held in New York from 31 August to 10 September, 1993.

We consider these talks an important and positive step on the road to settling the outstanding issues pertaining to Section C of Resolution No. 687. This paves the way for a clear and urgent implementation of Paragraph 22 of the aforementioned resolution.

We have learned that UN Security Council members whose positions are based on fairness, and who are eager to establish constructive relations between Iraq and the Special Commission and the Security Council, have welcomed the results of the technical talks. They have given them a positive evaluation, noting the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the unjust blockade, calling for ending it.

We also take into consideration the Special Commission's evaluation of the results of the talks. We are eager to continue objective relations and the spirit of cooperation and understanding through which we have so far realized tangible steps. We are also eager to continue these talks in Baghdad as soon as possible. We await your visit to settle the remaining questions.

In light of this atmosphere and in order to affirm the justice of our stand and to support all the good trends at the Security Council that are eager to preserve fairness and justice, and given our stand of linking the question of implementing future monitoring to the Council's carrying out its commitment in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, we have decided to meet your demand to activate the aforementioned cameras at any time you set.

We hope this decision will help in continuing the constructive trend of joint work between us and the Special Commission, leading to the desired result of lifting the unjust blockade of the Iraqi people and ending their bitter suffering as a result of this unjust blockade.

Please accept our sincere regards.

[Signed] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

UN Urged To Lift 'Siege'*JN2609081993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Sep 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has asked the Security Council to meet its commitments toward Iraq in accordance with Resolution 687, foremost of which is lifting the unjust siege imposed on Iraq during extraordinary circumstances.

In an article today, the paper says that in an effort to emphasize its just positions, and refute the pretexts of all evil aggressors and their futile justifications for continuing the criminal siege, for which the international community is partly responsible, and whose effects the Iraqi militant people are suffering, Iraq has met all the conditions laid down by the Security Council despite their injustice. By meeting the Special Commission's demand to activate the cameras installed earlier at the al-Yawm al-'Azim and al-Rafah sites, Iraq provides additional evidence of its sincere intentions and its eagerness to create an atmosphere of objectivity, understanding, and appreciation of its just policies and positions. Such evidence has an effective impact on the positions of some quarters and parties, who until recently were calling for the continuation of the siege on Iraq, and of those parties who have been careless about this dangerous subject that represents a flagrant aggression against humanity and the right to life, security, and stability.

The paper notes that the foreign minister's message to Rolf Ekeus, executive chairman of the Special Commission, linked future monitoring to the Security Council meeting its commitments toward Iraq. This is an objective and legitimate linkage because so far the Security Council has failed to meet its commitments stipulated in Resolution 687, particularly Paragraph 22 of this resolution, which calls for lifting the siege imposed on Iraq in accordance with Iraq's implementation of its commitments included in this resolution.

The paper emphasizes that in light of the Iraqi just positions and constructive policy, the Security Council should take the next step that would help reach the desired results, represented in lifting the unjust siege imposed on Iraq.

In all cases and in light of the positive step made by Iraq, it is time for the international community to act boldly and independently, and to shoulder its legal and moral responsibilities, not in correcting a serious mistake that was made during extraordinary circumstances, but in putting an end to the siege, because it is a crime against all that is human and just.

AL-QADISIYAH Affiliated With Information Ministry

JN2209174093 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 18 Sep 93
p 2

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a decree disengaging the AL-QADISIYAH newspaper, a political and military daily, from the Ministry of Defense, and affiliating it, with all its staff, rights, obligations, and financial assets, with the Ministry of Culture and Information.

This news was communicated to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY by Hani Wuhayyib, chief editor of AL-QADISIYAH. Wuhayyib added: In accordance with this RCC decree, the daily will maintain its approach in terms of according due attention to issues of a military nature with regard to the news, research, and analyses it publishes. This endeavor will remain in harmony with the instructions and ambitions of our beloved leader His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, Wuhayyib noted.

Wuhayyib added: According to the decree, the military personnel affiliated with the paper will continue to perform their assigned duties, but as personnel on loan for one year. After this year elapses, they will be given the choice of returning to their previous duty posts within the Armed Forces, or staying with the paper. If they choose to continue to work with the paper, they will retain the previous privileges they have already acquired.

Concluding his statement, Hani Wuhayyib, chief editor of the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, renewed the pledge of allegiance, loyalty, and affection to His Excellency Leader President Saddam Husayn along the path of building a proud and lofty Iraq and creating an Arab nation, whose message will illuminate all of mankind.

Wuhayyib added: The AL-QADISIYAH newspaper will continue to interact with the battles of honor and dignity, epitomizing the instructions of our historic leader, the symbol. It will translate these instructions into militant and committed literature that will enlighten and immunize our lofty people against the enemies' designs and fabrications. In our media and political discourse, we will seek inspiration from the bright and brilliant

ideas of the leader so that the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH may remain faithful to its eternal and glorious name.

Military Service for 18-Year-Old Kurds Postponed

JN2609162193 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 23 Sep 93
p 1

["Text" of Iraqi Revolution Command Council decree postponing compulsory military service of conscripts born in Kurdistan Autonomous Region in 1975]

[Text] The Republic of Iraq

The Revolution Command Council [RCC]

Decree No. 139

Date of decree: 27 Rabi' Awwal, 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 13 September 1993

Decree

Based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC decrees the following:

1. The compulsory military service of conscripts born in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region in 1975 shall be postponed until further notice.
2. The concerned quarters shall implement this decree.
[signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council

Kurds, Turkomans Said Ordered To Leave Tikrit

NC2409174793 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] The Iraqi regime on Monday [20 September] told Kurdish and Turkoman citizens in Tikrit [Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's home town] to leave the town and return to their original dwelling places within three days or face strict punishment.

Regime's Forces Reportedly Bombard Kurdish Areas

NC2509174593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] The Baghdad regime's fascist forces have been bombarding the outskirts of Chamchamal with mortars since 17 September. The enemy's shelling has hampered the citizens' efforts to reconstruct the area and carry out their agricultural work.

Rabin Meeting With Jordan's King Husayn Rumored**Schedule Changes Prompt Speculation**

TA2709054293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Last night, Jerusalem was rife with rumors that the prime minister was about to meet with a senior Arab figure—probably King Husayn—in Israel. The rumors began after Mr. Rabin canceled several events in which he was scheduled to participate. None of the ministers approached by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz, however, had any knowledge of any planned meeting.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 27 September carries a similar report by Moti Bassok on page 1, adding that "the prime minister's spokesman and aides firmly denied the rumors."]

Adviser: Rabin at Military Exercise

TA2709081393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Where was the prime minister last night? Referring to rumors circulated in Jerusalem early this morning, his media adviser said that yesterday Mr. Rabin participated in an exercise of one of the security forces branches.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that the adviser's statement came in response to a question on whether the prime minister met with King Husayn on Israeli soil last night.

The prime minister's bureau noted, however, that even if such a meeting had taken place, it would naturally have been unable to confirm it.

Peres Calls on Arabs To End 'State of War'

TA2509203893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Text] [Sukenik] First of all, what is your reaction to the murder of an Israeli by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] on the eve of the Yom Kippur holiday?

[Peres] This murder is especially painful because it happened on the eve of the Yom Kippur holiday and it involved a young man who lived alone. We share the sorrow of the bereaved family. This murder, however, is also an indication of the situation we will apparently have to deal with over the coming weeks. The PLO is out of the terrorism picture, and Hamas are the only ones left in the field. We will have to focus all our strength on the Hamas group, and I hope that we shall eventually overcome them as well.

[Sukenik] Mr. Peres, you are going to meet the U.S. secretary of state and a long series of foreign ministers at the annual convention of the UN General Assembly. Will you also meet Arab ministers, perhaps the Syrian foreign minister?

[Peres] I have no psychological difficulty in meeting them. We have hope in our hearts. I am ready to meet any one of them. Moreover, I would like to start by explaining that the whole phenomenon of Arab leaders being ashamed to meet with us, hiding from us, or seeking peace while playing hide and seek is unacceptable to us. If in the past I have stated on numerous occasions that it should mainly be Israel on the giving side, then the time has now come for the Arab countries to be on the giving side.

[Sukenik] Have you held any contacts preparatory to such possible meetings?

[Peres] There are all kinds of contacts. I do not want to arouse false expectations. I do not anticipate a breakthrough. We must remember that there will be two or three events during my upcoming trip. One of them is an important economic conference in Washington with the participation of foreign ministers and finance ministers, including Arab ministers from the Middle East.

[Sukenik] This pertains to the infusion of funds into the region?

[Peres] Exactly. This conference will take place in the middle of next week on 1 October. There is also the UN General Assembly, and I also am scheduled to meet with nearly 40 foreign ministers and heads of state from around the world.

[Sukenik] Is a meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also planned?

[Peres] No. I do not think he has to do me any favors, nor should I go out of my way for him. Our proposal to the Syrians is to conduct honorable negotiations between equals, without any hiding, evasive moves, or predictions.

[Sukenik] Excuse me, but that is indeed the question. There have been many reports recently, although perhaps some of them may best be described as rumors, about contacts and agreements in principle. Are there any such agreements with Syria or not?

[Peres] The political world is rife with rumors. Totally baseless rumors are floating about all the time. There are no agreements. There are all kinds of people who want to help and make all kinds of proposals. Ultimately, however, the reigns are held tightly in the hands of Syrian President al-Asad. There is no other coachman or even a groom. Al-Asad is running the show all by himself and the negotiations in Washington are the only channel of communications he has authorized. He also speaks with other Arab leaders, of course—with Mubarak and with 'Arafat. However, they seem to have difficulties reaching agreement.

[Sukenik] Mr. Peres, is there any chance of the Arab boycott being lifted? We have just heard reports to that effect.

[Peres] Look, we have a more far reaching objective. We want to end the state of war. After all, the Arab states turned their backs on us because of the Palestinian problem. Now, we are finally starting to resolve the Palestinian problem. They should tone down their rejectionism and show that we are really discussing serious issues. Therefore, I distinguish between three levels. I see full peace, which is the most preferable outcome for Israel. I see the termination of the state of the war as a confidence-building measure, and I see the end of the Arab boycott. Halting the Arab boycott is no longer enough today. In my opinion, we have to make a supreme effort to at least terminate the state of war and, obviously, to also end the Arab boycott.

[Sukenik] In other words, you do not regard the termination of the Arab boycott as one stage in the process but would rather move farther ahead and call for the recognition of Israel and an end to the state of war.

[Peres] I think that the ending of the boycott should be a consequence of the termination of the state of war. Incidentally, Secretary of State Christopher today said something which was correct and on which I agree with him. He said that the boycott also harmed the Arab states. Whoever boycotts another party is also boycotted in turn. If a country closes its borders to another it has closed borders in a world with an open economy and international market.

[Sukenik] On the bottom line, is there any concern that funds which were supposed to be injected into the territories will not arrive in Israel? Is there any fear that we will not be included in general projects that we thought and dreamed about?

[Peres] Let us first of all clarify what we want. We do not just want money for money's sake. We are not such panhandlers. The money issue has two goals, or rather two objectives. One, to extend initial assistance to the Palestinian self-government so that it will be able to establish a police force, run schools, open the colleges and other necessary institutions. The Palestinians need an immediate influx of cash. Incidentally, until now Israel has been paying for a large part of these expenses. Our profit to a certain degree will be in the fact that the responsibility will be lifted from us.

Second, we have to build a new Middle East. I would like to make something very clear, and this assertion is tested and true. The main lesson of World War II and its aftermath is that if you do not take care of the economic aspect of things, independence, liberation, what have you—can all turn into a tragedy. In my opinion, the best example of this is Algeria. Tens of thousands of young Algerians sacrificed their lives not in order to attain independence, but rather to create a tragedy. This issue requires different funds from other sources within a different timeframe. Israel wants to become a partner in

this and help prepare the infrastructure for a new Middle East by building roads, highways, airports, power plants, developing tourism, and above all by developing Middle East agriculture. This is a field in which Israel is a world leader. Israel's achievements in agriculture over the past decade are unmatched in this century.

[Sukenik] Thank you, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Peres Leaves for UN General Assembly Session

TA2609060193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left Israel last night for the United States. He will attend the opening of the UN General Assembly in New York, and an international conference in Washington to enlist funds for Palestinian self-rule. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says Peres has scheduled talks with his counterparts from 40 countries, including several that do not have diplomatic ties with Israel. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem Mayor Comments on Meeting With Clinton

TA2609085693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0605 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek by Karmit Gay and guest interviewer Arye Na'or—live]

[Text] [Gay] Good morning, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek. On the eve of Yom Kippur you returned from the United States where you met with President Bill Clinton. What did he say to you?

[Kollek] He was very interested in details about Jerusalem. I have sort of an open invitation to visit him. I believe I am the first mayor he ever received, but he is very interested in Jerusalem. And after the great events that have taken place, I thought it was time to take advantage of this open invitation, to go to Washington and explain to him what Jerusalem's problems really are.

[Gay] Does he know anything at all?

[Kollek] I had half an hour with him. He was dealing with the health and Yeltsin issues, and I thought the meeting would be called off. But it did take place, and he was relaxed and pleasant.

[Gay] He is known as a President who does not engage in foreign affairs so much, that his energy is invested in domestic issues. What does he know about Jerusalem?

[Kollek] First, he is a religious person, so it interests him as such. Second, we have common friends who are very close to him and who told him about Jerusalem and me several times, and this apparently triggered his curiosity. In fact, I have an open invitation to visit and tell him more. He asked all the basic questions, such as the number of residents and ratio of Jews to Arabs, how we

reached calm in this city, and what is expected to happen in the future. I naturally took advantage of this opportunity to explain the difference between the Israeli and Arab claims to the capital. The world conceives of the two sides' claims as equal, so matters should be explained as soon as possible.

[Na'or] This talk that you held with the U.S. President is interesting since the Jerusalem issue will be everybody's focus of attention in the coming years, and all elements involved in it in Israel will face an uneasy struggle. How do you think this matter can be presented to the Americans so that they will accept our view?

[Kollek] We need to present it first. So far, although Jerusalem was firmly referred to by the prime minister and the foreign minister, details were not gone into. I think the details should be known before a position can be formed. I was very pleased to finally hear from him that he supports my policy.

[Na'or] This is surely good. Do you think it will be possible in the coming years to get the Americans to adopt our approach? After all, they do not have an embassy in Jerusalem to date.

[Kollek] I told him I did not come to request an embassy in Jerusalem. I went to ask for his understanding that our claim to this city dates back to King David—3,000 years ago—while the Arabs have a mirror complex [last two words in English]. We established a capital and they want to do so, but there is no comparison between their and our demands. I think it was understood, but the explanation effort must continue, and I have an open invitation to visit him and continue the conversation when I go to the United States. What impressed me is that the day before he was engaged in his most important project, the health plan, and the Yeltsin issue also came up, so I was sure that the meeting would be canceled, but he still received me in a relaxed mood, and we sat for almost 30 minutes, which is a very long time for a U.S. President.

Rabin Seeking New Mosad, Shin Bet Chiefs

NC2609114093 Paris AFP in English 0934 GMT
26 Sep 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Sept 26 (AFP)—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is looking for new heads for the Shin Bet and Mosad, Israel's domestic and foreign intelligence services, military sources said Sunday [26 September].

Rabin, who is also defence minister, has already interviewed several candidates for the top jobs, including army generals, they said.

He would like to appoint an "outsider" to head Mosad, unlike the current chief, who rose through the ranks.

The names of the chiefs of Mosad (Institution for Intelligence and Special Tasks), founded in 1951, and the Shin Bet (General Security Services), set up three years earlier, remain a state secret.

Both branches are directly subject to the prime minister and the appointments fall under a normal renewal procedure for the posts.

Cabinet Discusses Security, Peace Process

TA2609120493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005
GMT 26 Sep 93

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Excerpts] Today's short cabinet meeting is over. The cabinet heard from a senior security element that the murder of Yig'al Va'aqin was not clear of criminal motives, but the cabinet also heard there is a decline in the number of terrorist incidents. It was Minister Yosi Sarid who informed us of this.

[Begin Sarid recording] It is absolutely clear that since the agreements were signed there have been no terrorist acts by Fatah, the PLO, and all terrorism is undoubtedly perpetrated by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members. Their intention, or rather scheme, is clear, and therefore both the Palestinians, the PLO, and us should make every effort to foil this scheme. [end recording]

Indeed, most of the cabinet meeting was dedicated to the schemes by those elements who want to sabotage the continuation of the political negotiations. It is possible to say that the bilateral negotiations will split into two from now on: the talks that will be held in Washington with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon and the talks with the Palestinians, with whom the document of principles has already been signed. The latter, Gaza-Jericho First, talks will be held either in Tabah or al-Arish. It was emphasized in the cabinet that these talks will not take place in Jerusalem. This track is very complex, featuring a combination of both political and security matters. Following are remarks by several ministers on the complexity of this track.

[Begin recording] [Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am] It is not yet known who the specific partner is. We know the partner is the PLO, but we want to know which PLO officials will act in the area, what their position on Israeli-PLO cooperation will be, and whether they want a closed economy or an economy linked to ours. These are very cardinal questions.

[Immigration Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban] In this vague picture, it will be necessary to cope with hostile elements on both the Palestinian and Israeli sides who will intentionally try to foil this agreement and mine the road leading to the permanent solution.

[Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'azer] As a person who was once the coordinator of activities in the territories and the Judea and Samaria commander, I can tell you there are a great deal of problems, and not only security ones, especially in the civilian administration sphere, such as customs, taxes, and licenses. It is simply necessary to sit down and begin

to consolidate the frameworks so that work can start.
[end recording] [passage omitted]

The prime minister told the ministers that a week ago, when reports came in on the fall of a Katyusha in the Qiryat Shemona area, he called U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who in turn called Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The Syrians announced they were abiding by the agreement signed following Operation Accountability. It later transpired that the entire commotion was the result of a mortar shell mistakenly fired by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The prime minister called Christopher again to apologize, but the positive conclusion that several ministers drew was that the Syrians are keeping their part in the deal achieved following Operation Accountability.

Netanyahu on Conditions for Unity Government

TA2409163993 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
24 Sep 93 pp 1, 6

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] Binyamin Netanyahu agrees that the Likud will join the government coalition on the basis of agreed-upon guidelines, including the prime minister's commitment to a united Jerusalem, the rejection of a Palestinian state in the territories, and opposition to the right of return of the 1948 and 1967 refugees.

Netanyahu will consider this a sufficient basis for the establishment of a national unity government headed by Labor with the Likud's participation. Netanyahu told this to our correspondent following yesterday's Knesset vote.

Netanyahu also said he is aware of the fact that the agreement is a fait accompli and should be treated accordingly. Now, however, he is willing to try to shape the future of the territories together with the prime minister on the basis of an agreement between the two parties.

The Likud chairman added that one of the main reasons for this move is his desire to prevent the dangers of armed opposition to the implementation of the agreement coming from the direction of extremist Jewish groups in the territories.

Disagreements Within Likud Reported

TA2609203493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Excerpt] There are disagreements within the Likud regarding Knesset Member [MK] Mikha'el Eytan's proposal to establish a national unity government if the coalition accepts the Likud's five demands with regard to the political process. The gist of these demands are that the government issue a commitment that a Palestinian state will not be established, reject the Palestinians' right of return, maintain the unity and indivisibility of Jerusalem, uphold the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] freedom of action in the territories, and guarantee the security of the Jewish settlements. Likud MK Beni Begin said that the idea was

akin to making the Likud wriggle into a government which was promoting a political process that was anathema as far as the Likud was concerned. The Likud Central Committee will convene soon to discuss the movement's future political path. The internal dispute within the Likud with regard its positions on the political process and last week's vote in the Knesset continues. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports.

[Begin recording] [Sukenik] While the Israeli Government is busy making preparations to implement the agreement with the PLO, the Likud is still trying to get its act together. As recalled, party discipline has been breached, and there is also widespread criticism of Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu. Likud sources say that he did not present any political alternative to that of the government, and complain that he has forced the Likud into an overly extreme right-wing position. MK Ari'el Sharon even asserted that what was needed now was an experienced team to manage the Likud, instead of one man.

[Netanyahu] I imagine that there are people inside the Likud as well, who are frustrated by the fact that at such crucial moments the country is being led by an irresponsible government. However, this frustration must not turn into the kind of disputes and internal fighting that brought us down. I intend to unify our ranks and move forward. [passage omitted] [end recording]

MK's Comment on Unity Government

TA2609200793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Likud Knesset Member [MK] Mikha'el Eytan has called on the prime minister and the chairman of the Likud to meet and discuss the establishment of a national unity government. Eytan asserts that the idea has already received the support of the Likud MK's and the heads of their regional branches. SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] MK Arye Der'i said that there was a basis for the realization of this idea. Our Knesset affairs correspondent Yo'el Nir reports.

[Begin recording] [Nir] MK Arye Der'i first considered the idea of establishing a national unity government during the political debate in the Knesset last Wednesday [22 September]. Ever since, the idea has been gathering momentum, mainly among opposition MK's. Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu did not reject the idea out of hand, possibly in order to deflect the criticism currently directed against him. Nevertheless, Netanyahu asserted that before the establishment of a national unity government would become possible, the prime minister would have to accept the following five points raised by the Likud in its draft resolution in the Knesset: opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state, upholding the indivisibility of Jerusalem, preserving the IDF's freedom of action in defending Israel's borders and preventing terrorism, and maintaining the economic and security existence of the Jewish settlements in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Incidentally, when the Likud brought its draft resolution to a vote in the Knesset, the prime minister demanded that the issue be turned into a vote of confidence in the government so that SHAS would be unable to support the proposal. Likud MK 'Ovadya 'Eli claimed that the prime minister had expressed support for these positions in a conversation between the two men. Here is what the proposal's initiator, Arye Der'i, has to say.

[Der'i] I think that the strongest possible government is in the best interests of the issue itself, as well as those of Israel and the Israeli people. Such a government will be able to negotiate on the basis of national agreement in order to prevent a rift among the people.

[Nir] Do you think that this is a realistic idea? Do you expect the prime minister or Meretz to accept this proposal?

[Der'i] Look, if we get involved in political considerations, and each side starts calculating which cabinet portfolios it will lose and how much it has to give up, then there will be a problem. However, the prime minister has said that he is opposed to a Palestinian state and the division of Jerusalem. The prime minister has said that the security of the settlers in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] responsibility and that no settlements would be vacated. In my opinion, this is sufficient. Now, if the Likud continues to adopt extreme positions and refuses to recognize the fact that this agreement was signed and ratified both by the government and the Knesset, then there is no ground for negotiations. However, if we adopt the basis set out in the prime minister's statements and if the Likud recognizes the agreement, then in my opinion there is grounds to establish a national unity government, national peace government, or national emergency government—it does not matter what you call it—for six months or a year.

[Nir] Der'i went on to say that this issue would not be raised as a condition in the negotiations between the coalition and SHAS on the latter's return to the government. However, who can say. Nevertheless, the question is less one of ideology than of viable political options. The Likud is counting on the fact that the coalition currently has only 56 MK's. At the same time, as we have already mentioned, Binyamin Netanyahu could regard the proposal as a way to deflect criticism from his fellow party members. Mikha'el Eytan, at any rate, intends to raise the issue for discussion at the Likud Central Committee's meeting after the Feast of the Tabernacles Holiday. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 26 September reports that "senior sources in the Labor party say that the establishment of a national unity government at this time is not even on the agenda. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the sources were reacting to the proposals raised through the media by MK's Arye Der'i and Mikha'el Eytan. Labor party secretary general Nisim Zvili said that he did not rule out the

establishment of such a government; however, the Likud would have to accept the Labor party's plans."]

Knesset Committee Lifts Der'i Immunity

TA2609120693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Excerpt] The Knesset House Committee today decided to lift the parliamentary immunity of Arye Der'i, the leader of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party. Der'i is due to face charges of fraud and bribery. [passage omitted]

Gaza Suicide Bomber Reportedly Hamas 'Fighter'

NC2609202393 Paris AFP in English 1944 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Sept 26—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) said Sunday [26 September] that a Palestinian Muslim fundamentalist who blew himself up earlier in the day in a failed suicide attack was one of its fighters.

The man was blown to pieces as he drove a car packed with grenades toward an Israeli settlement.

A number of Hamas activists inside mosques in Gaza City claimed the attack in declarations made through loudhailers.

Sunday's was the third attempted suicide bombing on the occupied Gaza Strip since the Palestine Liberation Organisation recognized Israel on September 10, but none has killed any Israelis.

Hamas, which opposes the PLO-Israeli autonomy agreement, also claimed responsibility for the first two suicide bombings.

The latest attempt was made by Ashraf Mahdi, a 19-year-old from Gaza City, who has twice been arrested as a Hamas militant, the sources said.

The car blew up a few kilometres from the fortified settlement of Netzarim, south of Gaza City. His charred body was found inside the burnt-out wreck, the sources said.

In the first attack on September 12 a Palestinian drove a car packed with explosives into a prison van, slightly hurting two people.

Two days later a Palestinian carrying explosives blew himself up as he walked up to police headquarters in Gaza City. [passage omitted]

Hamas Claims 23 Sep Murder of Israeli

TA2509174193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Excerpts] The body of 22-year-old Yig'al Va'aqnin was discovered yesterday in an orchard north of Ra'ananna. He had been stabbed to death. The Hamas [Islamic

Resistance Movement] organization is responsible for the murder. The murder apparently took place on Thursday [23 September] morning. There were signs of a struggle at the scene, and a printed leaflet from Hamas was placed on the body.

The Hamas spokesman in Amman assumed responsibility for the murder. Yig'al Va'aqin was a tractor driver and lived in a trailer near the site where he was murdered. His funeral will take place in Rishon Leziyon tomorrow. [passage omitted]

An Israeli soldier was lightly injured at a roadblock in al-Birah. A young woman came up and stabbed him in the neck. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that other soldiers fired at the woman but she managed to escape. Things were quiet throughout the rest of Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Right-Wing Movement Calls For Civil Rebellion TA2409164193

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 24 September carries a page 36 report by Shlomo Dror about a new movement that is calling on soldiers to refuse to serve in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The movement's founder is Yehuda Etzyon, "who was jailed for his activities in the Jewish underground, which included attacks on West Bank mayors and plans to blow up the mosques on the Temple Mount." After his release from prison, Etzyon moved to the settlement of 'Ofra. The report notes "that this week, during the right-wing demonstrations, the Hay Veqayam [Alive and Kicking] movement was revealed. As befits a movement which numbers Etzyon as one of its leaders, its existence was kept secret until now." The paper notes that the signing of the agreement between Israel and the PLO spurred the movement to go public. The movement's other leader is Mordekhay Karpel, "who was released from military prison a week ago for refusing to serve in the IDF." The report explains that the movement draws its ideology from the writings of Shabtay Ben-Dov, a former LEHI [prestate Jewish underground] member, who died in 1979. Ben-Dov's writings also "influenced Etzyon in the past, in the Jewish underground."

HADASHOT notes that most of the members of the movement, which began forming in the West Bank settlement of Bat-'En are born again Jews, who were former officers in elite IDF units. Etzyon explains that "secular Zionism was built on European-Christian values, and we will restore it to its authentic, Jewish roots." Etzyon says that this is "a moral revolution of ideas and values, which seeks to redefine the goals of returning to Zion, the establishment of the state, the Torah of the people of Israel, and the moral teachings of the prophets, while adapting their precepts and vision to our immediate goals."

The paper writes that their goal is to "establish the Kingdom of David already in our time." Hay Veqayam aspires to reestablish the institutions of prophecy, the

Sanhedrin (the supreme council of the Jews in postexilic times which was headed by a high priest), the third temple, and a new independence charter. Hay Veqayam rejects any division of Eretz Yisra'el on biblical grounds, and says that it will call for civil mutiny. Hay Veqayam calls on all soldiers to refuse to serve in the IDF, or obey any laws pertaining to withdrawal from territories or Palestinian sovereignty. Etzyon has already begun registering reserve soldiers "whose loyalty to their people overrides their loyalty to the regime and its decrees." Nevertheless, he says he only supports "passive resistance."

HADASHOT reports that Etzyon is backed by "several hundred people," noting that other settler leaders have expressed concern that Prime Minister Rabin's refusal to put the agreement with the Palestinians to a national referendum could lead "many more people to join the Hay Veqayam movement."

IDF Redeployment Plans, Alternatives Detailed TA2409191893 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (YOM HAKIPURIM supplement) in Hebrew 24 Sep 93 pp 8, 9

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] The Central Command was busy this week drawing West Bank maps in anticipation of the new, post accord reality. The road map featured traffic axes in different colors—each color denoting a different user group: roads for settlers, roads for Palestinians, security roads, and common roads. On another map, settlements featured prominently, and in several areas, such as the 'Etzyon Bloc, a large settlement bloc was delineated. Still another map showed the municipal boundaries of Palestinian cities. And, there was naturally a large map of the Jericho area, including proposals for the geographical demarcation of the Palestinian enclave.

The agreement clock runs fast. The timetable for the implementation of agreements is tight. The Rabin-'Arafat agreement, which was signed on the White House lawn on 13 September, will go into effect on 13 October—in three weeks. That date will mark the beginning of the Washington negotiations at the end of which—no later than 13 December—an agreement on the withdrawal of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops from Gaza and Jericho will be signed. It was agreed that the withdrawal will be completed no later than 13 April 1994.

The administrative work in the IDF and the defense establishment is in high gear. The PLO's demands are still unclear, and the IDF is formulating a security strategy founded on a number of proposals and alternatives that are in line with the expected Palestinian demands. On 20 September, senior IDF officers presented their initial plans to the prime minister and defense minister. On 21 September, the coordinator of government activities in the territories—whose office is in charge of the transfer of civilian powers to the Palestinians—held a meeting with regional commanders in the territories, whose ideas and notions about the expected problems he wanted to hear.

"There must be no planning errors," IDF staffers said this week. "After the accord is signed, we will not be able to change anything. With regard to Jericho, every detail has to be checked meticulously, because the Jericho solution may be used as a model for future solutions in other parts of the territories."

These days Palestinians debate teams are drafting in Tunis their own interpretation of the agreement. Suggestions are sent from the territories. "We are now launching new negotiations which should be conducted by experts," said Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the Palestinian delegation deputy chairman. "For that purpose, we will have to call up the best Palestinian talents from all over the world."

The declaration of principles spelled out the gist of the solution without going into detail. This applies to Jericho, for instance. The declaration of principles refers to a "Jericho area" without detailing the geographical boundaries of the enclave. Furthermore, the document does not stipulate what maps would be the basis for the city's area. There are two proposed solutions for this problem: The first suggests that the "Jericho area" boundaries should be set down in accordance with the city's approximately 20-square-km municipal area. The second says that the boundaries should follow the Jordanian definition of the "Jericho District" as determined by the Hashemite regime prior to 1967. Under this definition, the "Jericho area" will stretch over some 100 square km.

The IDF has determined several principles in relation to the Jericho enclave: The enclave will be dissociated from the Jordan River water line. Between the enclave and the Jordanian border there will be a strip several kilometers in depth, which will serve as a security strip held by IDF forces. The Allenby Bridge east of Jericho will remain under IDF control. There will be no Jewish settlements within the enclave. Consequently it will be necessary to evacuate the Elisha' military presettlement—which is located within Jericho's municipal borders—within two or three months.

The defense establishment wants to pave a "Jericho bypass" road in order to prevent unnecessary friction between Israelis traveling from Jerusalem to the Jordan Valley and northern Israel and the local population. If Palestinian border checkpoints are set up in the roads entering the enclave, Israeli border checkpoints will also be set up nearby in the area held by the IDF.

Clause Seven of Annex II of the declaration of principles states that the agreement includes "arrangements for a safe passage for persons and transportation between the Gaza Strip and Jericho area." The Palestinians are already talking about paving a new 150 kilometer-long road between Gaza and Jericho, to be leased out from Israel and put under international supervision or joint supervision.

The IDF and the defense establishment are not enthusiastic about this idea. Sources in the IDF said that "there

are legal problems involved in the confiscation of land, and paving such a road could take several years." Meanwhile the IDF has raised the idea of convoys. According to this proposal IDF-secured convoys will be allowed to travel from Gaza to Jericho two or three times daily. In any case, passage will not be made from the Jerusalem area, rather from the shortest way leading from Gaza to the West Bank—the Bayt Jibrin road or the Trans-Judean road.

The IDF is preparing a plan of withdrawal from Gaza and the Jericho enclave. Things will be easier in Jericho, because the area is smaller and there are no settlements involved. The IDF will have nothing to do there, unless Jericho turns into a city of refuge for fugitives.

Withdrawal from Gaza will be more complicated. The Qatif Bloc settlements, and especially the two enclaves of Netzarim and Kfar Darom, create serious security problems. The agreement stipulates that no Israeli settlement will be uprooted—and Rabin and Peres repeatedly emphasized this fact. This puts the burden of safeguarding the settlements, the settlers, and the traffic axis leading to them entirely on the IDF.

The IDF's new deployment in the Gaza Strip calls for establishing an IDF base in Netzarim, which will serve as the liaison unit with the Palestinian entity in Gaza. The settlement's enlargement with IDF forces will strengthen its security and increase the settlers' sense of security. As far as Kfar Darom is concerned, IDF elements are already talking about moving it to the Qatif Bloc. The IDF's security headquarters for the Gaza Strip will be set up in the Qatif Bloc.

After the evacuation from Gaza and Jericho, the IDF will face four main security tasks:

1. External threat: Safeguarding the eastern border with Jordan and the international border with Egypt. This is a relatively easy problem which does not require new solutions or deployment.
2. Perimeter security around the Gaza Strip and the Jericho enclave. This too can be accomplished relatively easily by setting up an electric fence around the Gaza Strip, and if necessary around the Jericho enclave, as well.
3. Safeguarding the traffic axis in the West Bank, especially those leading to the settlements. According to the agreement Israel will continue to bear responsibility "for overall security of Israelis for the purpose of safeguarding their internal security and public order." The problem of safeguarding the traffic axis is more complicated and will require a lot of coordination with the Palestinian police, as well as with the settlers. IDF sources believe that coordination with the Palestinians will be done at the level of a brigade commander with the commander of the Palestinian police district of the region.

4. Protecting the settlements and Israeli citizens in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. This is the IDF's most complicated problem and will require great efforts in terms of manpower and protection equipment, as well as a lot of creative thinking.

Major General Nehemya Tamari, commander of the IDF Central Command, and Brigadier General Sha'ul Mufaz, commander of the IDF troops in Judaea and Samaria, have launched a series of meetings and consultations with settlement leaders. The meetings are aimed at highlighting the fact that the IDF will continue to be responsible for their security, will continue to consult them, and will coordinate with them plans for guarding the settlements. This includes joint plans of setting up more fences, increasing security lighting, building new gates, setting up communication systems, first aid centers, or emergency generators. There is even talk of introducing emergency press-buttons.

In order to prevent friction between settlers and Palestinians and in order to increase settlers' security, it is intended to pave roads bypassing Arab population centers. An immediate solution must be found for Psagot near Ramallah. The road leading to this settlement—in which the Mate Binyamin Regional Council is also located—passes in the streets of al-Birah. The new agreement, which calls for a withdrawal from population centers, will require a bypass road in order not to put the security of Psagot settlers in the hands of the Palestinian police.

The agreement stipulates that "IDF forces redeploy outside populated areas." The meaning of "populated areas" remains open for the interpretation of the sides. The IDF is inclined to include in this definition all the municipal areas of the West Bank cities. The conclusion is an evacuation of military command centers from Palestinian cities.

The command centers for the West Bank cities were located already during the British mandate in police stations built in the center of the cities. Jordan inherited these buildings, and since 1967 Israel has been using them for the same purpose.

In Tulkarm, for example, the British authorities built the police station right in the city's center, a stone's throw away from the local refugee camp. In this complex are located the Tulkarm district brigade headquarters, the Tulkarm military governor's office, the military court, various government offices, a garage, police and border police stations, and the district prison. A similar situation exists in all the West Bank cities.

The IDF has started planning to move these centers outside the populated areas. The Central Command is considering plans to locate the headquarters in IDF camps near the cities. It has been suggested, for example, to locate the Ramallah headquarters in the 'Ofer or Bet El camps, the Nablus headquarters in the Horon camp, and the Tulkarm-Qalqilyah district headquarters in the Qedumim camp.

In principle the agreement authorizes the IDF to move freely in all areas of the West Bank, excluding the city of Jericho. The IDF intends to move freely in the West Bank, but not everywhere and not at all cost. Sources in the IDF say: "The main problem is our ability, not our authorization to do so. Will it be worthwhile, for example, to send IDF forces into Nablus' casbah or into the Balatah refugee camp?"

Hebron perhaps poses the most complicated and difficult problem. Israel will have to implement the agreement of withdrawing from densely populated areas, while protecting the Jewish settlements. Three Jewish enclaves are located right within the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporting population of Hebron. In Hebron's center, right next to the casbah, is located the Jewish neighborhood of Avraham Avinu, where Rabbi Moshe Levinger lives. Near the city's main square, also in the center of town, is Hadassah House, and nearby is located Tall al-Rumaythah, where a nucleus of KAKH supporters live. In addition to the local Jewish population, the IDF must also deal with the Cave of the Patriarchs.

Sources in the IDF say that Hebron will have to be handled in a special way. One of the possibilities is to declare the whole city a "sacred area," thus enabling the IDF to operate there alongside the Palestinian police force. Another proposal is to bring in a multinational force to aid the joint IDF-PLO force. The status quo between Jews and Muslims in the Cave of the Patriarchs, as determined by Moshe Dayan in the early 1970's, will be maintained. The prime minister said earlier this week that Israeli forces will continue to supervise holy sites such as the Cave of the Patriarchs and Rachel's Tomb. According to one of the IDF's proposals, guard duty in the Cave of the Patriarchs will be given over to a multinational force.

One of the issues debated by the IDF is whether to intervene in violent conflicts between Fatah, rejectionist front, and Hamas members. The IDF assesses that Hamas and its partners will intensify terrorist attacks during the interim period. According to the assessment, Fatah members can go as far as massacring their opponents. If this indeed happens in Gaza and Jericho, the IDF will not be able to intervene. In other areas, however, the situation is different. A senior officer clearly stated this week that as long as the IDF controls the area, it is responsible for the security of all residents. He said that the world will not accept any excuses and explanations regarding a massacre perpetrated in an area under Israel's control, "and all we have to do is look back at the Sabra and Shatila incident."

The IDF decisionmakers this week said it is completely clear that the Rabin-'Arafat handshake has created an entirely new situation. These officers, who are currently busy preparing the new security arrangements in the territories, do not rule out the possibility that Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Jericho and Gaza within a month or two—perhaps even for a prayer in Jerusalem. A senior

officer said: "In such a case the IDF will have no other option than to guard Yasir 'Arafat."

Rabin Said To Reject Extraterritorial Road

TA2709111593 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
27 Sep 93 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] Rabin is leaning toward designating one or two roads running from Gaza to Jericho for use by the Palestinians. This road will not be extraterritorial, and Israelis will also be allowed to use it. Palestinians, however, will be allowed to use only these specific roads for travel between Gaza and Jericho. Sources in Jerusalem told our correspondent that the Ashqelon-Nahshon highway will be one of the roads, while the second road has not yet been determined. The Palestinians are demanding an extraterritorial corridor.

The sources told our correspondent that the restrictions on Palestinian travel are not a result of security reasons alone but are also economically related. Rabin is leaning toward embracing the recommendation of economists who argue that free travel by Palestinians on Israeli roads

would expose the Israeli economy to unbridled Palestinian competition. [passage omitted]

Shahal Declines To Name Natural Gas Exporter

TA2409162493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100
GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Energy and Police Minister Moshe Shahal says an oil-producing country in the region is willing to start exporting gas to Israel, although Shahal refused to name the country.

[Begin recording] [Shahal] No, I cannot name the country, but I say that it is not a neighboring country. It is a producing country of oil and gas, and they are prepared and willing to invest in forming a joint venture to sell natural gas to Israel and to export natural gas through the Mediterranean to Europe and other countries.

[Correspondent Sylvia Leif] What will this mean for us, exactly?

[Shahal] Oh, an enormous amount of money invested in a petrochemical and oil industry. [end recording]

King Views Elections, Confederation, Saudi Ties

JN2609075193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
26 Sep 93 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—His Majesty King Husayn said Saturday [25 September] that he would take a decision in the next few days on the question of holding the general elections on schedule.

"Even though we are a few days away from taking a decision in this respect, I cannot tell if there will be any change in our plans to hold the elections in November," King Husayn said in an interview with the London-based al-Hayah newspaper.

"We have to be ready soon for the moment when we should accept resignations of nominees who should prepare for the elections," he said.

But so far, the King said, the possibility of delaying the elections was contemplated and advocated by many in Jordan.

"In this short time there is a need for defining the path Jordan should follow with regard to the future and national unity and ensure that the coming election campaign would not be a battle between proponents and opponents which would not be in the interest of democracy," the King said.

"It will be a chance for anyone to enter the arena and harm the picture of (democracy and national unity) of this united family," he said.

In answer to a question about how he viewed the Palestinian-Israeli accord and whether it would lead to a just and comprehensive peace, the King said that the Palestinian leadership's decision was "courageous... in shouldering its responsibilities and starting work towards achieving a just and acceptable solution."

"I believe that the beginning was good, and I wish these efforts meet with success," the King added.

On Syrian reservations about the Palestinian-Israeli accord, the King said that the Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese stands were supportive of the independent Palestinian decision and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

On Israel's shift on its so-called "Jordanian option," the King said: "It is perhaps appropriate to describe the Israeli government's decision (to enter the accord with the PLO) as realistic and farsighted... I believe that the Israelis have finally found that the problem should be tackled on the Palestinian-Israeli level regarding the Palestinians' rights on their national soil and this will open the door for possibilities for progress along other tracks towards a permanent and just peace in the region."

On the prospects of confederation, either a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation or Palestinian-Israeli confederation or a tripartite confederation, the King said:

"What is important is to concentrate on national unity but this does not mean that we should infringe upon the rights of the Arab individuals of Palestinian origin with regard to compensation or repatriation. Any discussion on the nature of relationship, regardless of its name, can only come about when the circumstances are ripe. These circumstances can only be available when people can exercise their rights freely."

On Jordan's drive to improve relations with the Gulf states, especially with Saudi Arabia, the King expressed hope that the relations will return to normal and said:

"I have shouldered a great responsibility during my political life in this country and I always believed that any difference that occurred was a result of differences in approach. I have noticed or heard that some believe that I have caused personal harm to him. If so, I personally apologise because I never meant to harm any one in my life. I have always wanted to serve all. Now that you mention Saudi Arabia, I would like to seize the opportunity to reiterate that if my brother, the custodian of the Holy Places, (King Fahd) had understood that that I had harmed him personally, then I say that it was not intentional."

King, Others on Likelihood of Elections Postponement

JN2609203293 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 26 Sep 93

[From the "News at Ten"]

[Text] His majesty the king said the current situation in the wake of the Israeli-PLO accord has posed several issues and new possibilities, and that he would not say whether the election plans would be changed. The king said Jordan would soon take a decision on the subject.

His majesty told the London-based AL-HAYAH newspaper that there is a likelihood of a postponement of the elections until things clear up as regards the future, and to see that the national unity be maintained.

The king said he was concerned for the election campaign that it should not turn into a contest between opponents and supporters, which could turn against Jordan's course of action at this crucial stage. The king said there are also questions about who will be allowed to vote, and those who will vote in Palestinian elections.

His majesty stressed that Jordan has chosen democracy and public participation in the decisionmaking as its path. On the subject of setting up Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, his majesty said his views to the Palestinian leadership were that the two sides should come up with their own vision of a form of cooperation in the future. The king said Jordan is the closest to the Palestinian people and cause, and that it stands by them at the best it can.

While the government studied the possibility of postponing the November parliamentary elections, both the

voters and candidates awaited the decision. But, at the same time, they were part of the ongoing debate on the subject. Maha al-Sha'ir has the details:

[Begin recording] [Al-Sha'ir] Jordan's parliamentary elections scheduled for November eighth could be postponed in light of the Palestinian-Israeli accord signed in Washington. His Majesty King Husayn said last week that Jordan plans to hold the elections on time, adding that any change will depend on the answers to the recent political changes in the region. The possibility of postponement has stirred the debate, although no official position has yet been made.

[Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar] The minister of internal affairs is continuing with his preparation for the general elections on the eighth of November of this year. We are all thinking about it. Everybody is thinking about it; his majesty is thinking about it. But, the decision has not been made yet.

[Al-Sha'ir] Supporters of postponement argued that holding elections in an atmosphere so dominated by the accord will affect the outcome of the elections.

[Former Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif] I think there are some many, so many ambiguities which have to be clarified, and I don't see any danger by deferring the elections for a few months until the picture is clearer.

[Al-Sha'ir] But others opposing the delay on the grounds that such a move may hinder the democratic process and would be a setback to Jordan's image abroad.

[JORDAN TIMES Chief Editor George Hawatimah] You can't stop the wheels of democracy every time something, or anytime something happens. This is a process that should continue. We started it for a good reason. We should press ahead with it for a good reason.

[Al-Sha'ir] Nevertheless, supporters say democratization in Jordan is an ongoing process that is not necessarily dictated by election deadlines.

[Mahmud al-Sharif] Of course, some people would say: Well democracy has been, will be hurt by this. I don't think so. I think democracy is not only elections, and parliament. It is the free press, it is the political parties; and there are so many aspects to democracy which will continue to function.

[Al-Sha'ir] The major issue remains, however, the status of several hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees of the 1967, who, it is hoped, will vote for the Palestinian Council envisaged in the autonomy accord with Israel. Their situation should not be prejudiced by the fact that they are now able to vote in Jordan.

[Publisher Usamah Sha'sha'ah] I understand that in nine months, we should know who is to leave, and who is to stay. The demographic structure might change, and accordingly, there is no harm in waiting for this specific nine months.

[Al-Sha'ir] But, others do not necessarily agree that the question of displaced persons is an obstacle to holding the elections.

[George Hawatimah] The elections in the West Bank will not have such a great impact on the elections in the East Bank.

[Al-Sha'ir] Whether Jordan will opt for holding or postponing the elections is a point of contention that will persist until the day a final decision is made, most probably some time this week. [end recording]

Elections Decision Expected 'Tuesday'

JN2709080493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
27 Sep 93 pp 1,3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—A decision to postpone parliamentary elections scheduled for Nov. 8 is expected to be announced Tuesday [28 September], informed sources said Sunday.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the elections would be postponed for one year upon the recommendation of the Cabinet to His Majesty King Husayn who would accept it and announce the decision to put off the polls by a Royal Decree.

The sources said the decision would be announced Tuesday before the deadline for the resignation of government (officials) planning to contest the polls, which falls on Wednesday.

The Election Law stipulates that civil servants planning to compete in the elections should resign one month before the elections are held. It adds that a decision on the resignation should be issued 10 days after its submission. If no decision rejecting the resignation is issued within this period, the resignation will go into effect automatically.

On Saturday, King Husayn told foreign correspondents that the elections might be postponed.

"There is a likelihood... of postponement for a limited period until matters clear up a little bit more and we know exactly where we all stand in the interests of cohesion within the country," the King said.

The Reuter news agency said the King told foreign correspondents that he was concerned the election campaign could turn into a contest between opponents and proponents of the accord, thus creating "rift between our peoples."

Jordanians have been divided down the middle on whether the elections should be postponed or not. Proponents of postponing the elections fear that the PLO-Israel accord might become the major issue in the polls, overshadowing other issues according to which parliamentarians should be elected.

They also say the polls should be postponed until the future of Palestinian displaced persons in Jordan is known—whether they will stay in the Kingdom or choose to return to the occupied territories and become citizens of another political entity.

Jordanian officials have said they will not allow Jordanians of Palestinian origin to vote both in parliamentary elections here and elections for a self-rule council in the West Bank and Gaza.

The PLO-Israel accord says elections in the occupied territories should be held no later than July 1994.

Political parties and figures who support holding the elections on the scheduled date say postponing the polls will hurt the democratisation process and disrupt Jordan's image as model of democracy in the Arab World. They say democracy should not be halted every time a controversial issue emerges and the government should have faith in the people's ability to deal with the complexity of the issue at hand.

Supporters of postponing the poll brush aside these arguments saying democracy is not just about holding parliamentary elections, adding that the demographic and political uncertainties created by the PLO-Israel deal justify delaying the polls.

The King has the constitutional right to postpone the elections in extraordinary situations and upon the recommendation of the cabinet.

Legal experts told the Jordan Times that the Constitution empowers the King to postpone the elections without having to recall the previous parliament in accordance with Article 73, item 4 of the Constitution.

The article says: "... The King has the right to postpone holding general elections if there were extraordinary circumstances under which the Cabinet believes that holding the elections is not possible."

Item 2 of the same article says if elections are not held within four months from the time at which the Parliament was dissolved, the "dissolved parliament regains all its constitutional authorities and convenes immediately as if its dissolution did not take place and continues in session until a new (Lower House of) Parliament is elected."

King Husayn issued a Royal Decree dissolving the 11th parliament on Aug. 4.

"The King has two options. He has the constitutional right to reconvene the previous parliament or not," prominent lawyer Tahir Hikmat told the Jordan Times Sunday.

Former Deputy Faris al-Nabulsi supported Mr. Hikmat's interpretation of the Constitution, recalling that the King cited Article 73 Item 4 of the Constitution to dissolve Parliament in 1974.

Minister of Information Ma'n Abu-Nuwar also said the King has the option of reconvening the previous Parliament or not if a decision to postpone the polls is taken.

He said if the legal period for holding the elections passed without holding them or issuing a Royal Decree postponing them, then the previous Parliament will automatically reconvene. But if the King issues a Royal Decree postponing the polls, he said, then he has the right to either call the previous Parliament into session or not.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar said "nothing is imminent" in relation to postponing the polls.

"If there was a change in attitude (towards holding the polls on the scheduled date), a Royal Decree to that effect will be issued. If not, the government will hold the elections as planned," he said.

Editorial Views Elections, Peace, Arab Unity

JN2709104793 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
27 Sep 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Jordan Will Not Deviate From Its Democratic March"]

[Text] In his majesty's interview with the London-based AL-HAYAH newspaper yesterday, King Husayn dotted the i's, clarified facts, and eliminated ambiguities surrounding some of the current issues.

King Husayn very clearly emphasized that Jordan chose the path of democracy and real popular participation in decisionmaking and will not deviate from this march. With capable, faithful determination, King Husayn emphasized that he will do his utmost to make this country an example for successful democracy and a model for others.

If there are circumstances and changes resulting from the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli and Jordanian-Israeli tracks that make the possibility of delaying parliamentary elections likely, especially since the current situation, as Husayn said, has created new issues and possibilities, this does not mean there will be any change in our democratic option or popular participation in decisionmaking. Political pluralism will remain in good shape, as will the freedom of the press and freedom of expression. This country, as King Husayn said, is now stronger than any other time in the past, and is protected by a its national unity, integrated internal front, and aware and vigilant openness; also, our people and leadership have no complexes or fears.

As for the Jordanian-Palestinian relations, King Husayn has purposefully and repeatedly emphasized that the Jordanian people are the closest to Palestine, the Palestine question, and the Palestinian people, and that the Jordanian people will stand alongside their brothers now and in the future with all their potentials and capabilities.

When His Majesty King Husayn presents a proposal on future cooperation to the Palestinian leadership, this shows that Jordan adheres to the fraternal bonds between the two brotherly peoples and to the principle of cooperation and coordination between the two sides in order to realize the national, pan-Arab, and fateful objectives in a climate of free choice by the two brotherly peoples and on the basis that the [future] situation be built from the popular base to the peak in accordance with sound and solid principles.

Jordan has an Arab motive and vision, and believes in unity, and no one in the world can deny King Husayn's continuous efforts to heal Arab rifts and clear up Arab differences in order to attain Arab solidarity or any unionist formula which unites the Arabs in one trench.

As His Majesty King Husayn said, Jordan hopes that its relations with Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, and all Arab countries will return to their former level—based on understanding, mutual confidence, cooperation, and solidarity. King Husayn considers improving inter-Arab relations at the top of his daily duties, and spares no effort to clear these relations so they will develop and prosper in a good and healthy atmosphere.

EC 'Stands Ready' To Extend Financial Aid

JN2509082193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
25 Sep 93 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The European Community (EC) is optimistic that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement on interim autonomy will lead to peace in the Middle East on the basis of U.N. resolutions and the community stands ready to extend financial and technical assistance to ensure the success of Arab-Israeli peace accords, Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes said Thursday [23 September].

Mr. Claes was addressing a press conference late Thursday before his departure after talks with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan on the 23-month-old peace process.

An expected meeting between His Majesty King Husayn or His royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan with Mr. Claes failed to materialise, but sources said the minister had arrived later than scheduled in Amman and there was little time for such meetings.

The minister, whose visit was arranged at short notice, did not refer to any new programmes of assistance to Jordan. He said the EC was taking note of Jordan's concerns and would seek to address them at a meeting of international donors to be held in Washington on Oct. 1.

Mr. Claes said the EC Commission had already proposed a 500 million European currency units (about \$600 million), five-year aid package to support the Palestinian entity envisaged under the Sept. 13 agreement between

Israel and the Palestine-Liberation Organisation (PLO). He also recalled that the community had provided aid worth around \$1.3 billion to the Palestinians in the last 20 years.

"I am leaving with moderate and prudent optimism" over the course of the peace process, said Mr. Claes, who arrived here after talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The Belgian minister, whose country took over the rotating six-month presidency of the EC in July, welcomed the "pragmatic" approach of Jordan.

"I believe that there is a real perspective here for a real comprehensive peace in the near future," he said. "...The implementation of the agreements will be a little bit complicated, needing at times contacts between Israel and the PLO, Israel and the Palestinians and (among) Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians."

"I think that the Jordanian authorities have a more pragmatic approach," he said. "I prefer this approach. I don't believe that it is necessary to finalise the peace process before starting discussions on programmes in a regional framework."

"I think that this approach can help us in order to create a better atmosphere which will stimulate the different actors and partners in the peace process."

Mr. Claes said Dr. al-Majali had raised Jordan's quest for compensation for hosting Palestinian refugees for decades and that he would discuss the issue with his EC colleagues and at the donors conference on Oct. 1 "to see what can be done towards the refugees and towards Jordan (with) the responsibility for one million refugees."

"Indeed it is a very important and at the same time very complicated story," he said, expressing appreciation of the fact that Jordan had extended full citizenship rights to most of the Palestinians forced out of their homes in the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars.

Mr. Claes said an EC delegation which visited the oil-rich Arab Gulf states last week to encourage them to give aid to support the peace process found that the countries had a "positive reaction to the Israeli-PLO accord as well as the Jordan-Israel agenda."

"In general, the Gulf countries confirmed that they will shoulder their share in the implementation" of the accords, he said.

Mr. Claes, who attended the signing of the Israel-PLO agreement in Washington and later met with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, reaffirmed the EC's enthusiastic support for the accord—"the beginning of a new period for the Palestinians."

The minister said the EC had taken note of the reservations voiced by some Arab countries over the accord, but that the community did not believe that the PLO intended to weaken the position of its Arab partners in the peace

process by resorting to the "secret diplomacy" that went into producing the agreement with the Jewish state.

"Time was playing against the Palestinians and the PLO," he said. "Now we see that this agreement is (accelerating)" of the peace process, he said, referring to the Jordan-Israel agenda signed one day after the Israel-PLO accord.

"Something is going on in the Maghreb... We are going to hear about in the following weeks," said Mr. Claes, in an obvious reference to contacts between Morocco and Israel amid reports that the two sides were poised to announce diplomatic relations and the visit to Tunis of an official Israeli delegation.

The Belgian minister said the EC believed that regional economic cooperation as "conditio sine qua non" to improve the social and economic conditions of the people of the region. And hence, he said, the community "is ready to play an important, active and dynamic role" in the area.

Mr. Claes, who described his visit to Syria and Jordan as aimed at "listening to the opinion" of the leaders of the two countries and convey EC viewpoints to them, said Mr. al-Asad had assured him of a "neutral" stand vis-a-vis the Israel-PLO accord.

"The Syrian authorities are not all enthusiastic about the agreement," Mr. Claes said. "President al-Asad assured me that he will not fight (the accord) but he is not ready to support (it)... he is taking a neutral position."

President al-Asad, however, reaffirmed his commitment to a negotiated peace settlement with Israel and "insisted on the necessity of accelerating the process as foreseen in Madrid," where an international conference launched Arab-Israeli peace talks in October 1991.

The Syrian leader also ruled out his country's participation in the multilateral phase of the peace process "until he can see clear (progress)" in the bilateral talks, Mr. Claes said.

(A European diplomatic source said meanwhile that the EC was proceeding on the presumption that "there cannot be an Arab-Israeli war without Egypt and Arab-Israeli peace without Syria.")

The Belgian Foreign Minister, who last week urged the European Parliament to release of \$188 million in aid to Syria held up over human rights concerns, denied that the community was trying to pressure Damascus into shifting its positions.

"I did not (visit) Syria in order to (apply) pressure," he said. "I was not making any link between European initiatives in the field of economic cooperation...and the peace process."

Mr. Claes said the EC was planning to sign a "treaty of cooperation" with Israel before the end of the years as

part of the community's support for economic cooperation in the Middle East. He did not give details, but it is believed that the protocol envisages preferential treatment for Israeli exports to EC member countries in addition to aid to the Jewish state.

Answering a question, Mr. Claes said the "some coordination" will have to be made between the multilateral phase of peace talks on regional cooperation and the Oct. 1 donors' conference. But, he said, it is premature to see the shape of such linkage.

Editorial: Jordan Deserves Aid More Than Israel

JN2609084893 *Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic*
26 Sep 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Jordan Deserves International Economic Aid More Than Israel"]

[Text] It is very clear that there is a large-scale international move, led by the U.S. Administration, to finance the Palestinian self-rule area in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The U.S. Administration pledged to provide \$250 million within two years. The International Monetary Fund estimated the aid needed to build the Palestinian self-rule area at \$3 billion. Britain, which donated \$18 million for Palestinian self-rule, has called for Israel's withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights in order to expedite the achievement of peace in the region.

U.S. officials continue to emphasize the need to support the peace process between Israel and the PLO. They have called on Japan, the EC, and the Gulf states to attend an international conference aimed at providing economic aid to the self-rule area and Israel, ignoring Jordan's role in the peace process and the great burdens it has suffered as a result of the Arab-Israeli wars and displacement of thousands of Palestinian citizens to its territories. U.S. officials are also ignoring the economic burdens Jordan is shouldering as a result of the departure of four million Arab and foreign citizens from the Gulf region via Jordan and its facilitation of their return to their countries during the Kuwait crisis and the second Gulf war.

Ignoring Jordan's role and its sacrifices throughout the Middle East crisis and its wars and ignoring Jordan's huge financial losses that ought to be compensated will not serve the peace process and the region's security and stability.

The world community should take Jordan into account and allocate aid for it that is commensurate with the sacrifices it offered, the economic hardships it suffered, and the huge losses it incurred. This is especially so since Jordan has shouldered the greater part of the burdens and results of both the Middle East and Gulf crises.

It is well known that Jordan is still suffering the consequences of a type of international embargo imposed on it after the second Gulf war. If a comprehensive peace is to be reached in the region, then comprehensive development, including Jordan, should be achieved. The peoples

of the region are seeking peace based on political stability and political, economic, social, and food security.

It is illogical and impermissible that Israel should be included in the economic, financial, and developmental aid while ignoring Jordan and not including it in this aid.

Jordan deserves this aid more than Israel.

Editorial Encourages Adherence to Arab Boycott

*JN2609091293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
26 Sep 93 pp 1, 22*

[Editorial: "International Pressures To Lift the Arab Boycott"]

[Text] It seems that some international forces are calling for a speedy lifting of the Arab boycott of Israel based on the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles, which have not yet entered the implementation phase.

Moreover, there seems to be a hasty response by some Arab countries to these international pressures as well as an Arab inclination to offer such a political down payment to Israel even before Rabin's government effects a military withdrawal from any inch of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

There is no doubt that the Arab boycott of Israel began with the start of the conflict in the region. This boycott continued with the continuation of the conflict, which very clearly indicates that the reason for the boycott remains valid as long as there is no end to the conflict with Israel.

Above all, we believe that any hasty relinquishment of such a collective Arab weapon, at a time when collective Arab weapons are scarce, will greatly weaken the Arab negotiating stand—a stand which needs, more than ever before, adherence to and good use of all the available weapons.

Hence, we believe that responding to the call for lifting the Arab boycott of Israel at this critical stage in the peace process will be a relinquishment of a negotiating card that is not of little importance. This is not to mention what such a change in the collective Arab stand toward Israel would represent in terms of an unjustified relinquishment of one of the remaining Arab negotiating cards.

While we are aware of the magnitude of international pressures the Arabs may face on this level and mindful of the depth of the current developments taking place in the Middle East's political arena, we call for adherence to the weapon of the Arab boycott of Israel and for keeping it brandished until the reason for which this effective economic Arab weapon was used no longer exists.

Jordanian-Palestinian Meeting Discusses Security

*JN2709083193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
27 Sep 93 p 10*

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Amman—A Jordanian-Palestinian committee met Sunday [26 September] for a second day to discuss border and security issues of mutual concern to the East and West Banks of the River Jordan, officials said.

Palestinian sources said the committee, one of six announced on July 10, was expected to discuss the movement of people across the river and various aspects of security along the borders among other things.

The committee, which first met Aug. 24 and adopted measures to streamline travel of Palestinians in and out of the occupied territories, held a round of talks at the Armed Forces headquarters Saturday and a second round at the Foreign Ministry Sunday.

"We are working on an agenda and a joint statement will be issued at the end of our meeting Monday," said a Palestinian source without elaboration.

Major-General Tahsin Shurdom and senior Foreign Ministry officials attended the meeting on the Jordanian side while Yazid al-Sa'ih headed the Palestinian team.

A senior Jordanian official said the panel would submit its recommendations and suggestions to a higher Jordanian-Palestinian committee for approval. "Until such time the report is submitted the deliberations of all joint committees will not be released," said the official.

In its Aug. 24 meeting the committee agreed to adopt measures to prevent an influx of Palestinians from the West Bank to Jordan.

"The idea was to block the entry of any massive number of Palestinians into Jordan after the Israeli authorities relaxed travel regulations," said a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) source, adding that the move was "completely endorsed by the PLO."

Now only West Bankers with legitimate business in Jordan are allowed in, and they are required to leave once they complete their business, officials have said.

"We don't want Palestinian migration to Jordan," said the PLO source, who did not want to be named. "We want migration in the other direction."

The source said Israel had lifted restrictions on free travel of West Bankers under 25 in what was seen by Jordan and the PLO as a deliberate move to encourage Palestinians to leave the occupied territory seeking employment.

"The situation in the occupied territories have deteriorated further after the Israelis sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip in March," said the source.

The sealing-off meant the estimated 120,000 Palestinians who used to earn their living in Israel could not enter the Jewish state, and this has led to severe financial hardships, the source noted. [passage omitted]

The other Jordanian-Palestinian committees are supposed to handle issues such as water, refugees, the environment, regional disarmament and economic cooperation.

The committee on economic cooperate met on Aug. 24, and is expected to meet the first week of October. In the meantime, some of the members of the committees could be reshuffled to ensure "more complementarity and interaction" since many of the issues that concern the panels overlap, officials have said. [passage omitted]

Meetings Resume 27 Sep

JN2709064593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] The Jordanian and Palestinian sides in the Security and Lands Committee, which was formed earlier, will resume their coordination meetings at the Foreign Ministry today.

The two sides held a meeting at the Ministry yesterday and discussed land, security, and borders issues, especially assisting the Palestinian side in these fields during the next stage.

'Working Groups' To Convene

JN2709130893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Sep 93 pp 1, 17

[By Riyadh Mansur]

[Excerpt] Informed Palestinian sources have disclosed that the Jordanian-Palestinian working groups, on which agreement was reached during Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Amman, will convene within 10 to 14 days following contacts between the Jordanian Government and the PLO.

The sources told SAWT AL-SHA'B that these groups will replace the six coordination committees, which it was agreed should be formed during a previous visit to Jordan by President 'Arafat, but which were not actually formed and became unfeasible following the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

The sources said the tasks of these committees are over because the committees were assigned with coordination between the two sides within the framework of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which no longer exists following the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel and the beginning of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. [passage omitted]

Minister Departs Paris for UNGA Meetings

JN2609194793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, the minister of state for foreign affairs, left Paris for New York today at the head of an official Jordanian delegation to take part in the meetings of the 48th session of the UN General Assembly [UNGA].

A responsible source at the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has stated that during the minister's stay in New York he will meet with several Arab and Islamic foreign ministers, with the UN secretary general, and with the foreign ministers of the United States and Russia, the cosponsors of the peace process. He will also meet with the foreign ministers of European states, Canada, Japan, as well as the foreign ministers of other African and Asian countries.

During these meetings, al-Hasan will hold talks with his counterparts on the Middle East conflict, the peace process, issues of common interest, and bilateral ties.

Mu'tah Trial: More Prosecution Witnesses Heard

JN2609105393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Sep 93 p 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Marka—Six prosecution witnesses testified at the State Security Court Saturday [25 September] against suspects in the Mu'tah University trial where 10 men are accused of plotting to assassinate His Majesty King Husayn and replace the regime.

The witnesses, who cannot be named in the press, were all students or former students at Mu'tah University, a military academy south of Amman. Through the testimonies, the prosecution tried to establish that five of the accused, all of whom were students at the university, were peddling antiregime "ideas" to their friends, mainly that the King was a "non-believer who should be removed from power."

The defence team refused to crossexamine any of the witnesses, saying they will prove in their defence that these witnesses either had personal differences with some of the suspects, or that their testimonies were extracted under duress by the General Intelligence Department (GID). Some of them were detained by the GID for up to three months when the case was under investigation since April.

More than 30 people were arrested and detained in connection with the case at the GID in April, but most were released last month.

The 10 suspects—two of whom are being tried in absentia, two alleged members of the Islamic Liberation Party (ILP), and one member of the Royal Escort Unit in addition to the Mu'tah students and an ex-student—are also charged with trying to change the Jordanian constitution through "illegal and violent" means. They also face charges of belonging to the ILP, an illegal party in the Kingdom which has not submitted permission for legal licensing. The prosecution charges that the suspects had planned to kill King Husayn at a graduation ceremony at the university on June 26.

None of Saturday's witnesses made any statements regarding the alleged members of the ILP or the former officer of the Royal Escort Unit, a Mu'tah graduate.

Female relatives of the suspects as well as the entire family of one of them were barred from the military court Saturday. At one point, the women blocked the traffic, screaming their grievances in front of the courthouse and had to wait outside until the session ended to meet up with their husbands or fathers.

Inside the courtroom, presiding Judge Colonel Hafiz Amin told a protesting defence attorney that the court would not tolerate any disorder, and thus the ban on the women from attending the court hearings. "I have already made it clear I will not allow chaos in this court," the judge stressed.

Last week, a brother of one of the defendants shouted at a prosecution witness that he was lying in his testimony because he was "intimidated by the armed military police." The man was expelled from the courtroom and his entire family walked out.

Col. Amin also warned local journalists not to publish the minutes of the trial and said he would prevent them from attending future sessions and that he would take legal action against them if they continued to do so. Two of the local journalists working for Arabic dailies walked out of the court following the judge's warning. Another journalist from the al-Ahali weekly was prevented from entering the court Saturday after his permit was withdrawn from him at the gate.

Defence lawyers protested that doctors had not yet been sent to conduct medical checkups on some of the defendants to report on signs of alleged torture during detention.

The judge responded that he had sent a letter to the Ministry of Health and other concerned health departments in response to their request and promised to try to speed up the process. Defence lawyers privately accused the court of delaying the process by going through "long bureaucratic channels."

The six witnesses, two of whom admitted they were kicked out of the university, and two who were roommates with two of the defendants, gave more or less the same testimonies, mainly:

—that the five suspects were religious and close to each other;

—that one of the defendant's behaviour began to change. "He stopped praying at the mosque, started watching television and smoking cigarettes;"

—That they heard some of the defendants calling the King a "kafir, (non-believer) who should be killed... and to remove the entire Hashemite regime;"

—that they heard some of the defendants saying the regime and laws of the country were "western-oriented" and should be changed to apply Islamic Sharia;

—that the suspects expressed their admiration of Khalid Islambuli, the Egyptian who assassinated President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981, and had books about him; and

—that the suspects were exchanging religious books and tapes.

One of the witnesses contradicted himself when Col. Amin asked him whether one of the defendants ever mentioned which ruler he considered a "kafir," the witness said "no." But when the court clerk read out the testimony he had given to the prosecution, King Husayn's name was mentioned as the "kafir who should be killed." After hearing the clerk, the witness said that the testimony he made to the prosecution was true.

In another incident, Col. Amin shouted at the defendants for grinning over the testimony of one of the witnesses. "This is a court, not a salon," the judge told the suspects. "If any one of you smile, I'll throw him out."

Before the court adjourned until Sunday, Prosecutor Major Muhannad Hijazi announced a new witness, a security officer who confiscated evidence from the home of one of the defendants. Angry objections from the defence were overruled by the court.

Two more prosecution witnesses will testify today, and the court clerk is expected to read out the confessions the defendants gave to the prosecution before the defence presents its case.

Junblatt on 'New Balfour,' Continued Struggle

NC2609110293 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader minister Walid Junblatt underlined a number of national, historic, and struggle constants with which we are facing the future.

Junblatt stressed that the course of struggle will continue and that we will tell the coming generations, even those not yet born, that Palestine is usurped, that what took place in Washington [the signing of the PLO-Israeli agreement] is a new Balfour promise, and that this is a peace between regimes but that the people will not capitulate.

Junblatt said we should not fall prey to despair but should continue to hold up the flames of freedom because we are fated to continue to make sacrifices in order to stay on our land and protect our dignity. He warned that an earthquake is going to hit the region, but he added that this region is noble and has a reservoir of men and therefore we should not be afraid.

Junblatt's remarks came in a speech he delivered today in B'aqlin at the opening session of the 33th general assembly of the PSP.

Hizballah Deputy: Israel Not To Have 'Easy Time'

NC2709075893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has stated that we are going through the most serious stage. This is because many Arab countries recognizing the usurping entity is harder for the nation than the open war with the usurping enemy.

During a ceremony yesterday in the village of Tamnin to commemorate martyrs Hasan 'Abd-al-Husayn and Fatimah 'Allam, Shaykh Qasim stressed that the coming days will prove that the will of the peoples who reject their rulers' signature [on agreements with Israel] won't let the usurping entity have an easy time. He noted that only regimes and defeatists append their signatures. Peoples continue their march in the face of injustice, oppression, and deprivation, he added.

On internal developments, he stressed that Lebanon can never be ruled by the military. The best proof is [former President] Amin al-Jumayyil, who tried to rule like this and fell. Anyone who considers a military regime will fall, regardless of the sedatives given to him, he added. Shaykh Qasim noted that the Lebanese authority shot at demonstrators on the airport road [in Beirut] intentionally to prove to the United States and Israel that it can control the situation in Lebanon.

Analysis Discusses Violence at Hizballah Rally

NC2509121493

[Editorial Report] Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic on 20 September publishes on page three an approximately 3,000-word "Weekly Analysis" entitled "Political Attacks and Counterattacks" by columnist Muwaffaq Madani. Citing "sources close to Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri" and other parliamentary and ministerial sources, the writer discusses the recent clash between Hizballah and the government in the wake of the bloody incidents during a Hizballah demonstration on 13 September, Syria's support for al-Hariri's government, and Syrian-Lebanese coordination on bilateral and regional issues.

The writer says that al-Hariri learned about the armed confrontation of Hizballah's 13 September demonstration during his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus on the same day. "Noticing al-Hariri's anxiety," the writer cites the sources as saying, "the Syrian president immediately assured him that the problem can be solved."

The writer then cites his sources as saying that "Monday's meeting between al-Asad and al-Hariri focused on ways to deal with a plan for a Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli confederation that might emerge politically and economically. They discussed how Syria and Lebanon should pursue the negotiations and deal with the current Israeli proposals, which aim at isolating Syria and undermining its relations with Lebanon."

The writer then cites parliamentary sources that Damascus was annoyed with Hizballah's personal attacks against the president, the prime minister, the Chamber of Deputies speaker, and the defense minister. He cites the sources that "under these serious circumstances, Damascus is eager to let all parties know that al-Hariri's government represents a line that cannot be crossed at this fateful time in negotiations and in light of the economic difficulties of the country."

The writer also cites ministerial sources that Hizballah had pressured the Shiite ministers to resign from the government after the incidents, but Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, vigorously intervened to prevent this happening.

The writer says a Syrian envoy informed Hizballah leaders that "Damascus supports the government's decision to ban unlicensed demonstrations and gatherings no matter what the reasons, because the current situation is difficult and serious."

The writer concludes by asserting that the government is facing a delicate situation concerning the Middle East peace process, and that marginal battles must thus be avoided: "The government also believes that the Israelis are launching an attack, represented by Yitzhaq Rabin's recent statements, in an attempt to isolate Syria at a time when the majority of the Arab countries are clearly

moving toward normalizing their relations with Israel, leaving Syria and Lebanon alone in the field."

Israeli Shelling, Resistance Operations Reported

NC2409171693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces escalated their attacks in the south this afternoon, shelling various areas. Resistance fighters waged several operations against the occupation positions and patrols in the occupied strip.

From 1430 today, Israeli artillery positions in al-Tayyibah, al-Shurayfah, and al-Zaffatah shelled Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-gharbiyah, Frun, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, and the al-Litani banks. Sniper fire by the occupation forces, which also shelled 'Arab Salim and Humin al-Fawqah, brought traffic to a halt on the Jisr al-Qa'qa'iyah road.

At about 1745, two Israeli helicopters raked the al-Litani forests with heavy machine guns. The shelling varied in intensity until it abated at 1630, leaving tension and caution behind. Enemy vehicles were seen moving between al-Shumariyah and 'Alman and on the Dayr Siryan road. Israeli helicopters repeatedly overflew the area.

At 1330, the occupation forces shelled Habbush, Kafr Rumman, and the Habbush road with mortar fire, making driving dangerous. At dawn, the occupation forces shelled the al-Litani banks and Kafr Tibnit.

Resistance fighters this afternoon attacked the 'Alman and al-Shumariyah positions with machine guns, rockets, and mortars and clashed with the units defending the two positions for approximately 15 minutes. Resistance fighters also attacked the al-Suwayda' position and bombarded al-Shaqif with artillery. No accurate information is available on the enemy losses.

Anti-SLA Operations Detailed

NC2509075493 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] In harmony with the events in Palestine, to proceed with the resistance option as a sole means of repulsing the occupation and thwarting its schemes and designs, to defend our kinfolk and nation, to continue the operations that are a response to the defeatist, treasonous Gaza-Jericho policy, and to support the heroes and mujahidin of the blessed intifadah in occupied Palestine, the Islamic Resistance has carried out a series of heroic operations.

The Martyr Akram Mansur Group of the Islamic Resistance ambushed a foot patrol of the Agent Lahd Militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] on the al-Suwayda' road yesterday afternoon, directing a hail of machine-gun and rocket fire at the patrol members. The Lahdist agents suffered three dead and two wounded.

Later the Nizar Qaws Group of the Islamic Resistance attacked a Lahd Militia foot patrol close to the entrance of the 'Alman position with machine guns and rockets. The patrol members were either killed or wounded.

Other Islamic Resistance group also responded to artillery fire from the same position with appropriate weapons in order to silence the guns that were pouring their fire against our enduring people. The Islamic Resistance pledges to its late imam and pious martyrs to maintain their course under the leadership of Seyyed Khamene'i, may God protect him, and under the banner of the awaited imam, may God expedite his honorable release.

Resistance Attacks SLA

NC2509103093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] The resistance has announced that one of its groups attacked a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol on the Taw'amat Niha road at 0945 today.

The resistance operations room reported that its attacking group ambushed the patrol and directed a hail of rockets and machine-gun fire at it, killing or wounding its members. A subsequent statement by the resistance said two SLA members had been killed in the attack.

The statement added that another group clashed at the same time with the personnel manning the Taw'amat Niha position. The Israelis then shelled the area and the resistance returned the fire.

Birri Leaves for Australia

NC2409162993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri left Beirut this afternoon for Australia on an invitation from Steven Martin, the speaker of the Australian Federal Parliament [name, title as heard].

Japanese Red Army Move to Southern Suburb Denied

NC2509151193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1401 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Beirut, 25 Sep (MENA)—A Lebanese weekly cites an informed source as denying the transfer of the Japanese Red Army base to the Southern Suburb of the capital Beirut, a predominantly Shiite populated area where Hizballah is based.

In its weekly edition for Monday, AL-SHIRA' reports that the source that denied the existence of this base noted at the same time that some Japanese Red Army personnel briefly passed through the Southern Suburb over a year ago.

A Japanese newspaper cited security sources in Japan about a week ago as saying that the radical Japanese Red

Army base was transferred to Beirut's Southern Suburb after it was expelled from Lebanese al-Biq'a area.

Elsewhere, AL-SHIRA' reports that Hizballah, which used Sam-7 missiles against Israeli aircraft's mock raids on Iqlim al-Tuffah hills last Monday, might have other types of missiles, such as the U.S. Stinger missile, some of which trickled out during the Afghanistan war.

Security sources told the Lebanese weekly that Hizballah is showing concern over the negative security effects it

might suffer as a result of the Gaza-Jericho accord which, as these sources claim, has led to the integration of security efforts between the 'Arafat-led Fatah Movement and Israel.

The weekly says Hizballah does not rule out the possibility of the Palestinian Fatah Movement providing full information on the party to Israel although relations between Fatah and Hizballah deteriorated a few months ago after Fatah accused Hizballah of killing one of its members in south Lebanon.

Israeli Offer on Golan Rejected 'Out of Hand'*NC2609074693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT
26 Sep 93*

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—In its Monday [27 September] issue, the weekly magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF quotes a Syrian diplomatic source as saying that Israel has offered to withdraw from part of the Golan Heights as a first stage designed to build trust and examine the possibility of coexistence between the two countries.

The Syrian source told the magazine that Israel made an offer to Syria along the lines of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, involving withdrawal from two villages in the occupied Golan Heights, Mas'adah and Buq'ata, in return for guarantees and arrangements for cooperation between the two countries, after which a discussion of a total withdrawal from the Golan would be carried out.

The source said Syria rejected this plan out of hand.

Peres Remarks, Israeli-PLO Agreement Assailed*JN2609154693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 26 Sep 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Israeli foreign minister made a statement last night urging the Arabs not only to terminate the economic boycott of Israel but also to end the state of war on the pretext that the Palestine question is about to be resolved in the wake of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

This statement deserves consideration due to its implications. The Palestinian-Israeli agreement was described as a test phase. But it needs an agreement on each of its articles; it has loose ends; it does not make final decisions on any issues of concern to the Palestinian people; and it does not contain any signs about the removal of Israeli settlements, about defining powers, or even about determining whether the lands on which the agreement will be implemented are disputed territories—as Israel claims—or occupied territories—as the Arabs, Palestinians, and forces of international legitimacy suggest.

This agreement has many loose ends, and its tangible contents only mean that part of the Palestinian people will be turned into policemen to protect Israel's security while everything pertaining to Palestinian rights is uncertain and subject to future negotiations. This agreement has also become a card in the hands of Israeli officials, allowing them to demand that both the Palestinians—who have thus far not benefited from this agreement—and the Arabs give concessions without a pledge by Israel to return any of the Arab rights or territories.

There is no justification for Peres' demand for an end to the state of war while the Arab territories are still under occupation in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. What have the Palestinians—whose cause, Peres says, is about to be resolved—gained thus

far from this agreement? Why is there a hasty demand in this regard now, even before Israel pays its share in return for peace? Is this not the logic of Yitzhaq Shamir himself, who demanded peace for peace?

Doesn't this mean that Israel has begun to overtly reject the land-for-peace formula, instead of covertly doing so? Why are the Arabs asked to end the economic boycott and the state of war? Why is Israel not asked to end its aggression on the Arab territories?

Israel's haste to reap the fruit of the Gaza-Jericho agreement from all Arab countries, even before the Palestinians gain anything from this agreement, and Israel's presentation of a long list of demands to the Arab countries to prove their good faith toward Israel—which itself has not yet proved its good faith toward the Arabs, as well as Israel's fabrication of all kinds of obstacles to impede the peace process, have all confirmed one fact: Israel wants to take advantage of this separate partial solution on Gaza and Jericho in order to take everything from the Arabs without taking a single step to return Arab rights to their owners and without fulfilling the commitments stipulated by international legitimacy in return for a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Peres' provocative statements prove that Israel wants everything without giving anything in return. Israel will never achieve this until every Arab right is regained and until every iota of occupied Arab soil is liberated.

No Peace Without Syria Now 'Stark Truth'*JN2009093693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 Sep 93*

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN comments on Syria's adherence to a just and comprehensive peace, emphasizing Israel's relentless efforts to undermine the foundations of the peace process.

There has been much talk of late about Syria's role and stand toward the peace process. In addition, doubts have been cast on the constants defined by Syria while responding to the political efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace. The Israelis, of course, are in the lead of those who try to undermine the constant, principled Syrian position to achieve a just, comprehensive peace, and who try to harm this position because they do not want peace and do not seek a real, serious implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. Those people try, at the same time, to escape from the requirements of peace and not to comply with its foundations and components as defined by the convening of the Madrid conference and the Washington talks, on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242, 337, and 425, the principle of land for peace, and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN adds: The entire world has acknowledged Syria's credibility and testified that it is truly seeking a

just, comprehensive peace and adheres to the constants of this peace so it can last and endure. Contrary to the national, Arab Syrian stand, Israel has been trying to obstruct the peace process and sought, through fabricated clamor about peace, to undermine the foundations of the peace process and blow up and threaten this process by aggressive, terrorist practices, schemes, projects, and deals that further complicated the situation in the region, creating tension, unrest, and confusion.

TISHRIN asserts that Israel has repeatedly tried to skip the principle of land-for-peace and place the cart before the horse through wrong, misleading interpretations of the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the Security Council resolutions. Israel has used false security pretexts, launched aggression against Lebanon, destroyed the cities, villages, and camps of the south, and imposed a suppressive curfew on our people in the West Bank and Gaza.

TISHRIN says that the Israelis are under an illusion if they think that peace in the region can be achieved without Syria or without its basic constants to establish a just, comprehensive peace. The fact that there can be no peace without Syria is now axiomatic. It is also the stark truth that no one can skip or ignore. It is useless for Israel or others to try to conceal this truth. Because Syria cares for peace and adheres to its components, it will remain loyal to its pan-Arab approach, not relinquishing one inch of national soil and not abandoning any Arab right, because there can be no peace with occupation.

Commentary Urges Tightening of Arab Boycott

JN2609065693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN comments on the attempts and efforts on more than one level to pressure the Arab countries to end the Arab boycott of Israel.

TISHRIN says that these efforts are based on the assumption that the region is heading toward peace, and that the concept of boycott, whether economic or political, conflicts with the principles of the aspired peace. The paper says that the question which should be currently raised is: Where is this peace they are speaking about, and what did Israel offer for this peace?

The paper says that in the first place, the Arab boycott was a weapon used by the Arabs in self-defense against

the Israeli penetration. This weapon was not restricted to economic issues, but included a wider and greater fields.

Over the past 40 years, the Arabs have been able to use this weapon effectively and seriously and protected many pan-Arab interests, and aborted all Israeli designs to penetrate the Arab market and soul.

The paper concludes by saying that the Arabs should tighten the boycott of Israel, because two years of Middle East talks in Washington have not produced anything due to Israel's rejection of the principles of just and comprehensive peace.

Lebanon's al-Hariri Arrives in Damascus

NC2409121093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri arrived in Damascus this afternoon for talks with Syrian officials. He will go to New York afterward to lead Lebanon's delegation to the ordinary session of the UN General Assembly and deliver Lebanon's speech.

Minister of State Confers With Russia's Adamishin

JN2609142793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Nasir Qaddur, the minister of state for foreign affairs, received Anatoliy Adamishin, the Russian first deputy foreign minister, this morning.

Their talks dealt with the regional situation and the latest developments in the Middle East peace process. They also discussed the current situation in Russia and bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Raslan 'Allush, the assistant foreign minister; Ghassan Raslan, the head of the European Department; the Russian ambassador in Damascus; and Posuvalyuk, the head of the Middle East department at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Khaddam Confers With Adamishin

JN2709122893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Anatoliy Adamishin, Russia's first deputy foreign minister, at 1100 today. The Russian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. Talks dealt with the regional situation and bilateral relations.

India**Six Congress-I Ministers in Karnataka To Resign***BK2409032693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Sep 93*

[Text] In Karnataka, six ministers of the Congress-I government headed by the chief minister, Mr. Veerappa Moily, have decided to resign. The state revenue minister, Mr. Rajashekhara Murthy, told our Bangalore correspondent, Sessa Chandrika, this morning that they have sent their resignation letters to the party high command through a messenger. Mr. Murthy claimed that the deputy chief minister, Mr. S.M. Krishna, has also decided to resign. Other ministers include the food and civil supplies minister, Mrs. Manorama Madhwaraj; Minister for Sugar Mr. Ramani; Planning Minister Mr. Manjunath; and Tourism Minister Mr. Perikkal Mallappa. The ministers have resigned opposing the way of functioning of the chief minister of Mr. Veerappa Moily. They said they have lost confidence in the leadership.

Meanwhile, over 60 legislators of the party met at Bangalore yesterday and demanded for a change in the leadership. The chief minister, Mr. Veerappa Moily, who is in Delhi is expected back in Bangalore this morning. Our Bangalore correspondent, who spoke to the chief minister on phone, reports that Mr. Moily has apprised the party president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, about the developments.

Congress-I Hails BJP Bid To Debate Religion Bill*BK2609161093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Sep 93*

[Text] The Congress-I has welcomed the challenge thrown by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] seeking an open debate over the bill delinking religion from politics, secularism and the record of government. In a statement in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said the appropriate forum for this debate will be the forthcoming campaign in the assembly elections. He said the exploitation of religion for political purposes goes against the basic ethos of the Constitution. He alleged that BJP is afraid of facing the electorate in the four erstwhile BJP-ruled states on the basis of the performance of their governments.

The BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, says any move by the Government now to give effect to the bills separating religion from politics through an ordinance will be bad in law. He said in New Delhi today that such a move will also be politically mala fide as elections to five state assemblies have been announced. Mr. Advani claimed that the proposed legislation is an attempt to stifle discussion on the Ayodhya [temple-mosque] tangle and to prevent it from becoming a poll issue.

Three Congress-I Workers Killed by Punjab Rebels*BK2409161493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Sep 93*

[Text] In Punjab, three Congress-I youth workers were killed by militants in Ludhiana last night. Reports say that they were coming to attend today's Youth Congress-I rally in New Delhi. Their vehicle was attacked by militants on the outskirts of Ludhiana town. One person died on the spot while the two others succumbed to their injuries in the hospital.

The prime minister called upon youths to fight terrorism and condemned the killing of Youth Congress-I workers in Punjab while they were on their way to attend the rally.

Over 400 Detained as Truckers' Strike Continues*BK2509040893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Sep 93*

[Text] The government has announced that necessary steps will be taken to ensure free movement of goods as the truckers strike entered the 10th day today. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi, the transport secretary, Mr. S.P. Bagla, said various state governments have already started using legal provisions for the smooth flow of goods. He said the government is also planning to set up booking agencies so that the willing truckers are not prevented from carrying goods for want of booking agents.

Agency reports say that over 400 truckers have been detained in various parts of the country. According to UNI, the convener of the action committee of the Motor Transport Congress has been arrested. The AIMTC [All India Motor Transport Congress] press release claimed that business continues to be affected because of the strike. The transport secretary, however, said that production in major industries has not been affected and the supply and price position of steel, metals, coal, petroleum, fertilizers, and other consumer goods is stable. Mr. Bagla admitted that industrial activity in sectors like automobile, rubber mattresses, fastener buttons etc. has been affected. He said the exporters are also facing difficulties in cargo movement of parcel goods.

Delhi Ready To 'Discuss' Demands*BK2509161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Sep 93*

[Text] The government says it is prepared to convene a meeting of the Transport Development Council to discuss the demands of the striking truckers, provided they call off their strike unconditionally. The surface transport minister, Mr. Jagdish Tytler, said this to the representatives of the All India Motor Transport Congress, who called on him in New Delhi today. Mr. Tytler reviewed the supply of essential commodities in Delhi at a high-level meeting today. It was attended by the lieutenant governor and chief secretary of Delhi. He asked the Delhi administration to keep a vigil on the

retailers and others who may try to exploit the present situation and indulge in profiteering. The meeting was informed that Delhi has adequate stocks of essential commodities and near normal flow of vegetables and fruits. Industrial activity has not been affected. But there has been some effect on the movement of goods from Delhi to other places.

The Himachal Pradesh government today invoked the National Security Act to deal with the 10-day-old strike. It has authorized the district magistrates to detain any person hindering the movement of trucks. An official spokesman said in Simla that the subdivisional magistrates have been empowered to cancel the route permits and licenses of the truck operators, in case they continue to remain on strike.

In Madhya Pradesh, 322 persons have been arrested so far under different acts in connection with the strike. The state transport secretary told our Bhopal correspondent this evening that efforts are on to have the talks with the striking truckers.

The Haryana government has directed the state roadways to carry vegetable and fruits without any charges on all routes including interstate. The chief secretary told our Chandigarh correspondent that the deputy commissioners have been directed to make available trucks to industrial units in the state and to ensure their movement with police escort.

In Uttar Pradesh, the Mini Truck Operators Association and the Vehicle Owners Association have decided to resume normal services from today.

Strike Canceled in 3 States

BK2709030093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Many truck operators in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Orissa have called off their strike. This was disclosed to Doordarshan by the transport secretary, Mr. S.P. Bagla, in New Delhi today. Mr. Bagla said the supply of essential commodities all over the country is normal. According to the transport secretary no untoward incident has been reported although there were some attempts to block traffic in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Mr. Bagla added that the interstate movement from Himachal Pradesh has started. He said about 50 percent of the trucks from Orissa have also begun interstate movement.

Meanwhile, the action committee of the All India Motor Transport Congress [AIMTC] has said its discussions with the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, were positive and helpful towards finding a settlement. The president of the AIMTC, Mr. Sharif, has claimed that Mr. Pawar is also holding parleys with other state chief ministers. The substance of discussions with Mr. Pawar will be discussed during tomorrow's meeting. Referring to the discussions with the chief ministers of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka

without any preconditions, the truckers have expressed their willingness for a similar dialogue with the union minister for surface transport, Mr. Jagdish Tytler.

Finance Minister Calls For Open Trading System

BK2709044493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has called for the establishment of an open nondiscriminatory global trading system. He said this is a prerequisite for the success of market oriented reforms in India and other developing countries. Dr. Singh was addressing the policy making body of the International Monetary Fund [IMF] in Washington. He said, India has embarked on a far-reaching economic reform which will promote an open trading system and integrate its economy with the rest of the world. Dr. Manmohan Singh hoped that the current annual IMF-World Bank meeting would encourage the developed countries to agree to fund soft-loan facilities for the developing world.

Meanwhile, the IMF managing director, Mr. Michael Camdessus, has made a special mention of the success of India's economic reforms in the IMF annual report. According to an Indian spokesman, India will possibly apply for a loan of five to seven billion dollars from the IMF next year to meet additional foreign exchange requirements.

New Kashmir Police Chief Named

BK2609160693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. M.M. Sabharwal, is to be the new director general of police. He replaces Mr. B.S. Bedi, who has requested to be relieved by 15th of next month. A decision to this effect was taken by the state administration council which met under the chairmanship of the governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, in Srinagar today.

PLO's 'Arafat Speaks on Accord During Stopover

BK2509094693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr. Yasser 'Arafat, has described the recent PLO-Israel accord as a first step toward achieving a new Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. Talking to newsmen at Calcutta airport today during a brief stopover, he said the accord marks the beginning of a new order. The PLO leader hoped that India will continue its support to the Palestinians. He said that he will deal with the fundamentalists in a democratic way.

Steps Taken To 'Normalize' Ties With Pretoria*BK2509125693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 Sep 93*

[Text] India is taking steps to normalize commercial and economic relations with South Africa. The move follows the African National Congress President, Dr. Nelson Mandela's announcement at the United Nations that South Africa has made irreversible progress toward becoming a nonracial democratic country. In a statement, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry pointed out that the Commonwealth Secretary General in consultation with the member states has suggested that economic sanctions against South Africa be lifted. The Commonwealth found that the conditions set by the Harare summit of 1991 have been fulfilled.

Commentary Hails Prospects for Trade With China*BK2609124793 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 26 Sep 93*

[Commentary by H.C. Shukla]

[Text] Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's recent visit to China has opened up new areas of bilateral economic and trade cooperation. In fact, the momentum was set up in 1988 by the visit of the then prime minister, late Rajiv Gandhi, who shifted the focus from boundary dispute to confidence-building measures and improving trade and economic relations. Since then, Sino-Indian relations are steadily improving.

China has been following an economic strategy of reforms and opening to the outside world. The cumulative results of the [word indistinct] strategies have been quite impressive. China's output figures have made it one of the largest and fastest growing economies in the world. Trade between China and India has been on the rise in the past few years. Chinese have been taking an interest in the import of Indian iron ore in exchange of good quality coking coal. The Indian corporate sector is keen on building bridges with China. Most notable is the joint venture between an Indian firm and a Chinese enterprise for setting up a steel plant at (Bipary) in Orissa. Also, a well-known Indian pharmaceutical firm is setting up a drug plant in China. India and China are producing and trading in almost the same commodities and, therefore, the scope for bilateral trade has been limited so far. India and China trade accounted for just \$339 million out of total Chinese trade of \$166 billion in 1992. But more significant is the upward trend in bilateral and border trade. As against \$264 million in 1991, the bilateral trade increased to \$339 dollars in 1992. The rise in India's exports to China was very impressive. It was \$181 million in 1992 as against \$120 million in 1991, whereas imports from China increased marginally from \$144 million to \$158 million. India mainly exported metal and ferrous ores, synthetic and other textile fibers, chemicals, pharmaceutical products and leather. Imports from China consisted of silk and yarn, agricultural products, chemicals and machinery. At present there is a huge demand in

China for steel and other construction materials and India is in a position to supply these things in large quantities.

Cross-border trade, which had seized in 1962 in the wake of war between the two countries, was resumed in July 1992. During the recent visit of Prime Minister Mr. Rao along with many other agreements and protocols, a protocol was signed for the extension of border trade across Shipki Pass in Himachal Pradesh. In 1992-93, trade was conducted through the Lipu Lekh Pass which connects the Pithoragarh District of Uttar Pradesh and Burang county of Tibet. After a slow start in 1992, trade is gradually picking up on the border. As compared to turnover of 1.7 million rupees in the trading season of July to October 1992, the volume of trade in July this year alone was worth 1 million rupees. Exports to China included textiles, coffee, rice, barley, dry fruits, vegetables and herbs, whereas imports included wool products, borax, animal skins goats and sheep. The success of trade along Lipu Lekh Pass has encouraged the officials of two countries to continue their discussions on identifying additional trade routes for the expansion of border trade further. There is a proposal for bilateral banking arrangement too. It will greatly facilitate and improve the transactions between the traders of the two countries.

The snows are fast melting on the Himalayas and an irreversible thaw in Sino-Indians relations has set in. The two countries have sent a message to the world that they mean to be friendly and together. They shall play an important role in shaping the future of the people of the two countries.

Irish President Accorded Reception in New Delhi*BK2709082693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 27 Sep 93*

[Text] The Irish president, Ms. Mary Robinson, has sought greater economic and trade cooperation between her country and India. She was speaking to newsmen after a ceremonial reception accorded to her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this morning. Ms. Robinson said though the political, cultural, and historical ties between the two countries have been very strong there has been very little economic activity. She lauded India's role in the United Nations and peacekeeping operations. The Irish president said her visit will give concrete economic substance to bilateral trade and economic ties, which is necessary in the changing global economic scenario.

Ms. Robinson was accorded a warm welcome by the president, Dr. S.D. Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao; some of his cabinet colleagues; and senior officials.

Ms. Robinson arrived in New Delhi last night accompanied by a high-level delegation. She called on the president, Dr. Sharma, today after the reception and held discussions with him.

The president is hosting a banquet in honor of the visiting dignitary this evening.

Iran

Foreign Ministry: PLO-Israel Accord 'Condemnable'

LD2509201893 Tehran IRNA in English 1943 GMT
25 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA—A spokesman of the Iranian Foreign Ministry here today said that as far as the Islamic Republic is concerned the accord between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Tel Aviv is condemnable.

He said the so-called Gaza-Jericho plan signed by PLO's Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin earlier this month favours the Zionist entity and does not offer the Palestinians anything at all.

The spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said the principal problems continue to exist.

Referring to the visit to Tehran last week by Britain's assistant undersecretary of foreign affairs, Michael Burton, he said the British envoy and the Iranian authorities had discussed various topics including financial issues and unfulfilled agreements between them.

He said the envoy from the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not have any message in connection with the talks between Arab states and the Zionist regime.

Referring to the Arab League's support for the United Arab Emirates' claim to three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, Mohammadi dismissed as routine absurdity and said the islands—Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb—would continue to remain under Iranian sovereignty and that no development contrary to the sovereignty of Iran over those islands was foreseeable.

On the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said if the United States was serious in its efforts to lift the U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia, the Islamic Republic would consider its decision.

However, Mohammadi thought such a development unlikely and said that Washington's double-standards has even led to sharp reaction in American administrative circles and is benefitting the Serb and Croat aggressors.

On the recent developments inside Russia, Mahmoudi said what is happening in that country is part of an internal process, and expressed hope that the Russians would go through the present transition in a democratic and peaceful environment.

He added the relations between Tehran and Moscow are based on a solid foundation independent of preferences for this or that group in Russia.

Editorial Derides Clinton Reference to Koran

NC2609072493 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 Sep 93
p 16

[Editorial by Mohammad Sarafraz: "The Koran's Response to Clinton"]

[Text] Undoubtedly the most humiliating result of the signing of the PLO-Israel accord is that for the first time in history a Palestinian group has officially succumbed to the domineering of Zionists and has endorsed the rule of Israel over the homeland of Palestine.

From this point of view, 'Arafat has acted in a more dishonorable way than al-Sadat did at Camp David. Al-Sadat committed treachery against Islam and the Arabs by recognizing Israel, but he retrieved the Sinai desert. 'Arafat instead chose to dismantle his embassies in various countries and to continue his activities in Israel and agreed that members of his group should travel on Israeli passports. Apart from this, Israel has the right to trample roughshod over the accords when it so wishes.

This illicit and illegal act on the part of 'Arafat does not conform to any rhetoric. Yasir 'Arafat is neither the representative of the Palestinian nation nor that of the PLO, as most of the important PLO leaders opposed his actions. The signing of the accord with the usurper Jerusalem regime by a minority group has no social base and is devoid of any value or credibility. Despite the extensive propaganda by the U.S. and British television networks, only 100 ruffians staged demonstrations in favor of 'Arafat.

Thus, the gift of Palestinian territory in lieu of limited autonomy is a morsel that 'Arafat will choke on. The other important point pertains to Clinton's remarks during the signing of the accord.

The U.S. President stated: "The Koran states that whenever the enemy is inclined toward peace, you should also show an inclination toward reconciliation."

It is strange that Clinton, who favors homosexuality, has become an expert on Islam and wishes to motivate the Muslims toward peace with Israel on the basis of Koranic reasoning!

If the White House advisers who put these words in Clinton's mouth had cleared the air of his intoxication and shown him the verses of the Surah-ye Tawbah [Koranic verse on repentance] they would have forgotten all about their expertise on Islam! "Fight Ye the Chiefs of Unfaith for Their Oaths are Nothing To Them, That They May Be Unrestrained." [Koranic verse] (It is the fear of the sword that would restrain them from reproaching the religion of Islam.)

How simplistic can those people be who believe this call of peace-seeking on the part of the United States when they have seen the television reports on atrocities unprecedented in history being perpetrated in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Kashmir, and

Somalia? Even the United Nations has entered the arena under the aegis of the United States on behalf of a despotic and usurper power. This organization wishes to officially usurp a percentage of the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina to set up a pro-Western government in Sarajevo and is dragging innocent defenseless and unarmed women and children into blood and dust daily. The matter does not end here as the United Nations wishes to set up illegal governments in all the crisis-ridden regions of the world.

In such circumstances, how can wisdom even accept that the United States and the Zionists are gripped with compassion for the Palestinian and wish to vindicate their rights?

The first expectation that Israel has from 'Arafat is that he should suppress the intifadah and obviously, 'Arafat is unable to do so. The intifadah dragged the Israeli armed forces into impotence and disgrace, a feat none of the neighboring Arab countries could achieve. Because of the intifadah the Israeli army had become beleaguered inside the usurped lands, even though it had been following the course of expansionism for some decades.

In its commentary on Sunday [12 September] Radio Israel stated: "God alone knows what rivers of blood the Palestinian will unleash with the establishment of autonomy in Gaza and Jericho." This is the main desire of the Zionists.

One must note that in the same way that the so-called security zone in southern Lebanon has been unable to prevent the vulnerability of the Zionists, setting up a security zone in Gaza and Jericho will not be able to prevent the attainment of the intifadah's objectives and this pure and deep-rooted process will continue its exalted existence.

Jordan Envoy: No Plans for Pact With Israel

LD2509214393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Jordan's ambassador to Tehran stressed in a meeting with the interior minister on Saturday: Jordan does not plan to sign a separate peace pact with Israel. Mr. Yasin Istanbuli expressed the hope that ties between Islamic countries would be strengthened on the basis of Islamic commands and Islamic brotherhood and that these countries would stand up to the enemies of Islam.

Mr. 'Ali Mohammad Besharati-Jahromi, for his part, said at the meeting: The Islamic Republic of Iran has, since its inception, wanted to strengthen the ties between Islamic governments and nations. He added: Today, Iran is extending its hand in brotherhood toward Islamic countries. Expressing regret about the pressures brought to bear on Muslims, the interior minister described them as a result of divisions between Islamic countries.

'Tactical Alliance' With Somalia's Aidid Denied

LD2409113493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Iran's permanent UN representative described as baseless the remarks made by about Iran by America's permanent representative at that organization.

During a speech at an American military university Madeleine Albright said there is evidence of a tactical alliance being formed between Iran, certain groups in Sudan, and General Aidid in Somalia.

In his statement our country's permanent representative points out that by repeatedly resorting to sophistry and vague claims in the past U.S. officials have attempted to legitimize their biased policies. He says: The Islamic Republic of Iran does not support any of the warring factions in Somalia and strongly rejects any claims on that score.

President Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon 24 Sep

Discusses Russian, Palestinian Arena

LD2409154293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1205 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Second Friday prayers' sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Friday prayer leader of Tehran, in Tehran on 24 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] There are important issues currently in progress regionally and globally, about which your awareness is needed.

To our north, in the Russian Federation, there is worrying upheaval. We recommend to those honorable officials to our north to try to resolve these matters peacefully and amicably, and avoid hostile clashes. A place such as the former Soviet Union, with all its military potential and huge arsenals is not a place for armed adventurism. It would cost the world dearly.

God willing, figures active on the Russian scene will note this. We, too, are ready to do what we can to ensure that the Russian people and their neighbors do not have any problems. Of course, while there is talk of politics, democracy, organization and domestic issues—well, every country has, and others have interests, and will be in touch. [sentence as heard].

Another area of concern is the Balkans, for which one cannot see good prospects. Because of a grudge against Muslims—without reason—the world is behaving unfairly there. The Muslims are under total siege, while the Croats and Serbs are given a free hand. They both rely on two governments that have a free hand. They receive whatever they wish. But the Muslims are under total siege. They have difficulties even when evacuating

a sick person. There is no way for them to contact the outside world. Even their leaders and officials have to travel by UN aircraft, and such.

Truly, this matter is given the most unfair treatment by the eastern and western powers. Of course, some utter slogans proclaiming support, but the support is not serious. I think this disgrace of advocates of modern civilization will remain in history until they are in their graves. They cannot exonerate themselves in any way.

Another concern is Palestine. This concern is growing. Well, after the improper and abject compromise, and the unconditional surrender that has taken place, the main concern is that an insidious Israeli-American policy will come to fruition—and that is clashes among the mojahed Palestinian forces. There are indications, signs, things one sees, that there is a plan such that Palestine's mojaheds of yesterday will fall upon each other in the occupied territories and in Palestine, so that the Israelis can say: Look; here they are; they are not capable of living together. They will thus parade before the eyes of the world of Islam yet another proof of the underdevelopment, immaturity and lack of management and competence of the Palestinians. The same scenario was seen in Afghanistan, and there is a lot more to come there.

Here and now, from the holy Friday prayer platform, I address the people of Palestine and tell them: Beware of falling for this dangerous attack and vicious ambush. If one day Palestinian arms should be used against Palestinians we do not know where it will end, or what will happen on that day to our half-century-old holy jihad by our own hands. Our enemies will sit back, watch, and rejoice at our killing and plundering each other. God willing, there will be wise men to help them pass through this hard stage that has transpired as a result of this improper compromise, this ugly surrender, and thwart the world of arrogance and blasphemy in their rejoicing.

We believe the essence of sound decision-making in such issues to be piety, Godliness, righteousness, and abstinence from self-indulgence, selfishness and shortsightedness, which unfortunately sometimes badly beset leaders and officials, and the nations suffer greatly as a result.

I hope that we can resolve the problems of the world of Islam with the help of God; after all, He does not abandon his mojaheds. [passage in Arabic omitted]

Stresses Importance of Education

LD2409132193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] With the extensive presence of the God-fearing masses at the Tehran University campus, the magnificent rites of Friday prayers were staged in Tehran today as prayers were held throughout the country.

In his first sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Friday prayer leader of Tehran, said: the main aim of global arrogance on imposing the war

on Iran was to fight against Islam and the revolutionary movement of our country's Muslim people.

The Friday prayer leader of Tehran said world enemies carefully selected the Ba'thist regime of Baghdad to attack the Islamic revolution. The army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said, played an important and valuable role in confronting and repelling this aggression.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the Islamic combatants' victories and the enemy's failure to achieve its goals. Some of the period's unforgettable highlights of the imposed war include on the one hand the Iraqi regime's inhumane acts in bombing residential areas and using chemical weapons. On the other hand, he noted the humane actions of the Islamic republic of Iran in accepting war refugees.

He then referred to Iran's victory and Iraq's supporters eventually conceding that Saddam was the aggressor. He said:

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] See how God finally rewarded you people. At the United Nations, which is the backroom wherein arrogance makes its decision and vetoes and dictates votes, God created a condition where they were forced to confess to some of our rights. They had to accept that Saddam was the aggressor and that Iran was the rightful party. They also accepted the need to implement Resolution 598, the payment of war reparations, and the implementation of the Algiers treaty. Saddam himself had to concede to all that.

Once again Saddam had to appear on television and confess to the rightfulness of the very same treaty he once tore up on television. Among history's golden pages of our sacred defense, we have so many victories and so much divine blessing.

Today the nation, a nation that with God's blessing has been victorious in its war, political struggles, and lawful demands, faces reconstruction.

May this victory be sweet for this selfless ummah [Islamic community]. We will forever be grateful to our selfless devotees, our martyrs' lofty souls, our dear ones lost during the war, our war-disabled, our freed prisoners of war, and the families of all these dear ones. We will never forget all those great epics that took place under the guidances of our lost imam. [end recording]

In his second sermon, Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to education, and stressed the need for training committed and expert forces for our country. He added: Last year we allocated 23 percent of the country's budget to education and training. This year we have allocated 680,000 million rials to this sector. Our president stressed the need to pay greater attention to the quality of education, and added: More attention to cultural and educational issues and selection of needed courses of study, particularly professional and technical training, will produce literate individuals more suitable for revolution.

He continued his sermons by referring to the present political crisis in Russia and expressed hope that the crisis will be resolved peacefully. The president also referred to the Balkan conflict and demanded a more just attitude and serious international support for Bosnia's Muslims. The president referred to the PLO treaty and 'Arafat's compromise with Israel. He said the treaty's aim is to bring about conflict between Palestinian forces and cause fratricide. He asked the heroic nation of Palestine to be united and alert, to stand firm against this conspiracy to frustrate the world of arrogance.

Velayati Arrives for UN General Assembly Session

NC2709063793 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Sep 93*

[Excerpt] Our Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in New York this morning to participate in the 48th UN General Assembly session, which opens today amid extraordinarily heavy security measures. [passage omitted]

Economic Officials at IMF Talks in Washington

LD2709102793 *Tehran IRNA in English 0859 GMT 27 Sep 93*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—The Iranian delegation which is currently in Washington to take part in the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, attended the 41st meeting of the IMF provisional committee Sunday. The delegation is comprised of Vice-President for Economic Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh, Governor of the Central Bank Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli and Mohammad Javad Vahaji in charge of the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs.

The meeting discussed policies which could provide facilities for strong and inflation-free economic growth of industrial and developing countries. Economic developments and stability of the former socialist countries were also reviewed by the participants.

Omani State Minister Arrives in Tehran

Met by Velayati

LD2409172293 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Sep 93*

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Tehran this evening at the head of a political delegation. He was welcomed by Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister.

In an interview with our reporter, Mr. Bin-'Abdallah described his visit to Iran as falling within the framework of mutual consultations on regional and international issues. He said: Such visits are a must for the sake of

bringing about development and expansion in the two countries' ties. He noted that in his meetings with Islamic Republic of Iran officials, the new circumstances and developments in the Middle East would be discussed.

Mr. Velayati referred to the fact that the ties between Iran and Oman are based on a long-standing and deep relationship, and said: Two neighboring Muslim countries, which have many shared features, can naturally have extensive and beneficial ties—just as we have with Oman. He added: In recent years, we have witnessed the consolidation and advancement of the two countries' ties and, following the formation of a joint commission by the two countries, the upgrading of relations to ambassadorial level, the commencement and expansion of commercial exchanges, and the establishment, for the first time in history, of direct flights between Iran and Oman, all of which reveal the positive and satisfactory trend the two countries' relations are following.

Growth of Bilateral Ties Noted

LD2409212593 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Sep 93*

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, and Mr. Velayati, the foreign minister, met today in Tehran and discussed bilateral relations, stability in the Persian Gulf region and international issues.

Mr. Bin-'Abdallah described his country's ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran as moving along the path of growth and development, to the advantage of mutual interests and regional stability. Referring to the fact that the two countries' close ties will not be harmed by any event, he stressed Iran and Oman share a wish to consolidate bilateral ties, strengthen regional peace and stability and to take part in collective cooperation.

Mr. Velayati spoke at the meeting about the two countries' long-standing ties and the precedence the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches to its relations with Oman, and he described stability in bilateral relations as being beneficial to the two countries' interests and to the security of the region.

Mr. Velayati also condemned the PLO-Tel Aviv accord and spoke about our country's diplomatic efforts to establish peace and calm in the Central Asian republics. In particular he pointed out the Islamic Republic of Iran's mediating role in connection with the Armenia-Azerbaijan problem.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2509120393 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Sep 93*

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

this morning. During the course of the meeting, the president, referring to the PLO-Israel abject compromise, said:

The policy of the occupying regime of Qods is expansionism, aggression, and violence. Rafsanjani, while calling on Islamic states to shun the division and one-sided approach toward the Palestine issue, said: The Palestinian nation's homelessness, the occupation of the Muslims' first altar, Bayt ol-Moqaddas [Jerusalem], and the struggle and martyrdom of the Palestinian combatants during 50 years of jihad cannot be forgotten by a compromise. The world of Islam will not accept that ignominy.

Referring to the insinuations by the enemies of Islam—who try to undermine the Islamic states through creating division and raising futile and untrue issues—the president said: The importance of Islamic and Persian Gulf issues requires Muslim states to adopt serious decisions to resolve those problems.

Rafsanjani welcomed further expansion of ties and cooperation with Oman.

According to a report by our correspondent, during the meeting, attended also by Foreign Minister Velayati, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs regarded the Iranian stance on world issues to be important and said: Relations between Iran and Oman enjoy stability and special value. He also briefed the president on recent regional developments and the PLO-Israel compromise.

Pakistan

Islamabad Not To 'Foreclose' Nuclear Option

'No Change' in Nuclear Policy

BK2609031093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Pakistan will not foreclose its nuclear option as long as India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974, maintains its nuclear capability. The prime minister's spokesman declared in Islamabad that Pakistan will not forsake its nuclear capability unilaterally under any circumstances, nor will it roll back its nuclear program, which is solely for peaceful purposes.

Clarifying Prime Minister Moin Qureshi's remarks about Pakistan's nuclear program during his meeting with a group of journalists on Thursday [23 September], the spokesman said there has been absolutely no change in Pakistan's longstanding policy on the nuclear issue. Pakistan will, however, continue to work sincerely to establish an equitable and nondiscriminatory nuclear nonproliferation regime in the region. The spokesman said the prime minister hopes that the Pressler Amendment will be amended and that an evenhanded approach will be adopted regarding nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. He added that the prime minister understands that any attempt in certain quarters to make

political gains from this issue in the general elections will not do any service to the nation.

Nuclear Capacity To Be Maintained

BK2709093193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Commentary by A.B.S. Jafri]

[Text] In an interview with some newspaper correspondents, Prime Minister Mo'in Qureshi has had occasion to restate Pakistan's established policy on the issue of nuclear weapons, nuclear research, and also nuclear disarmament in the Pakistan-Indian subcontinent, in this region, and in Asia. Pakistan's stand on this exceedingly sensitive issue has had a consistency which by itself is a remarkable feature. In principle, Pakistan stands by the ideal of a world wedded to peace based on justice for all, equality of all nations, and total disarmament which also includes nuclear disarmament by all members of the world community.

But this ideal is at the moment no more than a sweet midsummer dream. The world is full of conflicts. By one knowledgeable estimate, at this very moment, the world is witnessing more than 30 wars of various sizes and seriousness. There is hardly a continent which is war free. Coming to the Pakistan-Indian subcontinent or the South Asian region which would include Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Burma—this region is not without conflicts actually raging as in Indian-occupied Kashmir and India's eastern states like Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya. Then there are several conflicts as between India and Pakistan, and India and Sri Lanka, and a near civil war situation in Afghanistan. All these conflicts, raging or simmering, are manifestations of maladjustment in relations between nations. These maladjustments have their own causes, most of them embedded in their respective historical backgrounds and contemporary tensions.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, it has been the victim of adverse historical factors compounded by a neighbor which has simply failed to come to terms with the reality of there now being two states, where before 14 August 1947 there was one colony ruled by a mighty British imperialist power. The irony is that India accepted the partition of the subcontinent and recognized the birth of the [word indistinct] state, but somehow India has not been able to see its way to working out and sustaining a genuinely peaceful equation with Pakistan. A very large segment of the Indian nation openly declared hostility towards Pakistan and millions following this line openly swear to undo Pakistan.

As a result of this too extremely Indian national psyche, much that is ugly and unfair has marred the subcontinental climate. It is almost entirely because of this unfortunate tendency that the subcontinent has not known real peace. Indeed, the subcontinent has been the battlefield of three full-scale cold wars. There is no counting the sporadic border skirmishes. In occupied

Kashmir, which sits atop both Pakistan and India, there is a veritable war raging for the last four years.

This is the state of environment in the subcontinent. It would be ridiculous to expect Pakistan, the militarily smaller of the two antagonistic neighbors, to persuade itself, forget about its security, and disarm unilaterally in terms of conventional weapons and abandon whatever nuclear capability it has come to acquire. Today, Pakistan maintains its defense preparedness entirely on its own. It is no longer in any defense arrangements with any other country. Pakistan has come to have the capability to assemble a nuclear device in the nature of a weapons grade entity. But Pakistan has decided not to go for fabricating any nuclear weapons. This is Pakistan's own sovereign decision. The country's policy in respect of nuclear research and development is very clear, open, simple, and rational. Pakistan's research program is purely for peaceful purposes and it will continue with the speed that the country's national resources permit.

Pakistan's capability in the field of weapons production is not being harnessed to production of any warlike devices based on nuclear fission. In this area, Pakistan is entirely on its own. It will take no dictation. It will not reverse the progress it has made. Nor would it move on to manufacture nuclear devices or weapons. But Pakistan will retain its position as it stands. That is, it has the capability to produce nuclear weapons and it is committed not to go into production. Its own regional [words indistinct] to Pakistan's stand on nuclear nonproliferation. It strongly subscribes to the principle of nonproliferation. But, it will not commit itself to this idea without India doing the same.

Qureshi Remarks Backed

BK2609153193 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN
OBSERVER in English 26 Sep 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Why This Confusion on Capping?"]

[Text] Prime Minister Moin Qureshi seems to have outraged some quarters by his observation in a recent press interview that Pakistan's nuclear programme has been "capped". To belabour Mr Qureshi on this point is to betray hypertension and of course, haste in jumping to conclusions which on reflection would appear to be unavailable.

Let's see what the PM has actually said. He has made the bland statement that the nuclear programme has been "capped". Those who cannot help flying into a rage at the merest mention of the term "capped" obviously do not quite appreciate the connotation of the terms. In this context, "capped" should mean brought to a halt where it stood.

Apparently, those who perceive in "capping" something amounting to reversing or as the fashionable expression now goes, "rolling back" are in error. The two are fundamentally different and quite easily distinguishable.

As far our understanding of the PM's remarks on the nuclear issue goes, he has affirmed the [word indistinct] of capping not rolling back.

To take umbrage at Mr Moin Qureshi's confirmation of "capping" and to go at great length in imputing all manner of motives is, to say the least, unfair and unkind. Those who have a reliable memory would of course not be surprised at the Prime Minister's remark. It is no revelation. A number of people in very high positions of government authority have spoken about "capping". The present foreign minister has said as much.

After all, what exactly is "capping"? It has been stated by the highest in the name of the governments of Pakistan that this country has the capability to fabricate a nuclear device of weapons grade. In plain words it means that Pakistan can assemble a nuclear weapon as and when it should want. But it does not want to.

This is precisely what "capping" amounts to. When Premier Moin Qureshi says as much and no more—how is one justified in going hammer and tongs for him? On this point, one can quote almost anyone relevant in more than one government before the caretakers came in. Some people are obviously barking up the wrong tree.

The points on which there exists a tangible consensus in Pakistan are: that this country ought to have the capability to put together a nuclear device, should the need arise; that there is to be no rolling back from the point at which we have arrived and stand today; that Pakistan shall under no circumstances succumb to any pressure to sign and adhere to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) so long as India fails to do likewise.

It is hard to see how any advocate for nuclear Pakistan, however ardent and unbending, can fault Premier Qureshi, let alone to go for his jugular on the nuclear issue. Mr Qureshi may or may not be an "imported" product, regardless of what this label should imply in real terms, he has not visibly compromised on the nuclear consensus as it is today.

What the nuclear bomb enthusiasts evidently fail to realise is that on this issue it is easier to raise a storm which is most unlikely to be in the best interests of a nation already at the edge of its nerves. Unfortunately, those who talk most loudly and passionately about nuclear weapons are also the ones who do not happen to know a great deal as to what it is all about.

The truth about nuclear weapons is that they are unusable devices. And if used by neighbour with contiguous boundaries, the user is likely to be just about as badly wounded as the target. The proper policy for Pakistan on the nuclear issue is not to go into the manufacturing business but to mount a moral crusade to generate the pressure of world opinion to make India see reason.

Nation 'Not' Producing Nuclear Arms

BK2409024293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Moin Qureshi has said he thinks that there is a growing feeling in the United States that the Pressler Amendment will not achieve its goal. In an interview with a panel of journalists in Islamabad yesterday, he expressed the hope that this amendment will be abrogated soon. The prime minister made it clear that Pakistan is not manufacturing nuclear weapons.

'Serious Offer' for Kashmir Solution Awaited

BK2509160893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Pakistan has not received any fresh proposal from India for a dialogue between the two countries. However, it will welcome any serious offer for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today while commenting on press reports attributed to Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh saying that India is ready to resume talks with Pakistan. The spokesman referred to Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar's statement last week that Pakistan would welcome any serious offer or proposal for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue. The spokesman said that the essential element for such a solution is to respect the Kashmiri people's basic and internationally accepted right of self-determination.

Sattar To Highlight Kashmir at UN Session

BK2609114193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr. Abdus Sattar, has arrived in New York to lead Pakistan delegation to the 48th UN General Assembly session. Pakistan is set to focus world attention on the grave situation in occupied Kashmir at the assembly session that begins its annual debate on issues of war and peace tomorrow.

A Foreign Office spokesman told APP [Associated Press of Pakistan] in New York that Pakistan's first priority will be to highlight the grave situation in Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir. He said Pakistan had also asked the Security Council to ensure that the mandate of the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan was fully implemented and that India was asked not to prevent the observers from patrolling the Line of Control on the Indian side.

'Fierce' Kashmir Clashes; Mass Torture Alleged

BK2509143893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Reports from occupied Kashmir speak of fierce clashes between mujahedin and Indian soldiers. In a daylong clash in Bandipura area, eight Indian soldiers including an officer were killed. Mujahedin suffered 10 casualties. Clashes have also been reported from other

parts of the valley including Pulwama, Badgam, Kupwara and Hindwara. Indian forces in their campaign of repression killed nine innocent Kashmiris during house-to-house searches. People in protest against Indian atrocities took to the streets in Badgam and Srinagar where more than 100 were arrested by Indian soldiers. Some of the arrested Kashmiris were tortured and thrown on the streets in critical condition. Reports say that the population of 3,000 in village Ramban on Jammu-Srinagar Highway is leading a miserable life due to atrocities of Indian soldiers. Local police in collaboration with the extremist Bharatiya Janata Party have arrested all young men between the ages of 14 to 40, years who are being tortured.

Indian Troops Kill 15 in Kashmir Villages

BK2609145193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, another 15 people have been martyred by Indian troops in various parts of the valley. Reports say in one of the incidents, Indian troops besieged village Darangabal in Pampur and resorted to indiscriminate firing. Mujahedin in retaliatory attacks in Pampur, Islamabad, Anantnag, and Badgam killed five Indian soldiers, injuring eight others. Protest demonstrations have also been reported in Kupwara, Bandipura, Hindwara, Sopor, and Baramula. Reports say night curfew has imposed in Doda after a massive demonstration in protest against the killing of a teacher in detention.

Drug Kingpins Said Purchasing Stinger Missiles

BK2509133093 Lahore JANG in Urdu 6 Sep 93 pp 1,8

[By special reporter]

[Text] Islamabad—According to prominent and sensitive sources, some drug mafia chiefs have started buying Stinger missiles from leading Afghan commanders. Big drug smugglers and "drug gangs" are making offers—higher than the U.S. offers—to Afghan commanders for the Stinger missiles. The Afghans and Pakistani tribal elders met at a secret place near the border region of Towr Kham last week and struck a deal on the Stingers. A leading source says that a tribal chieftain who has been stripped of the "turban [as published]" has purchased 105 Stinger missiles from a prominent Afghan commander near the Pakistan-Afghan border. These missiles are now stored at an unknown place in the tribal region.

Responsible sources said that another tribal figure who was also stripped of the turban attended a tribal assembly near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border last night, which was attended by some tribal leaders of Afghanistan as well. According to these sources, the tribal assembly decided to declare a prominent Pakistani personality as a "Jew." The tribal leaders assured the chieftain who was stripped of his turban that the tribal people would not make any compromise in the "crusade against the Jews." Sources said that the arms agents who had been negotiating on behalf of the United States with

Afghan commanders for the purchase of Stinger missiles are now switching sides due to the higher offers being made by the tribal leaders.

Responsible sources say that the possibility of an armed resistance by tribal leaders against the antinarcotics operation cannot be ruled out. The tribal chieftains who have been targeted in the Army-assisted antinarcotics operation can also start terrorism in the country. The sources said that security steps throughout the country have been tightened to deal with possible terrorist activities by the drug mafia. The law enforcement agencies have been alerted. People have been advised to keep a close watch on terrorist activities and not to touch any suspicious object. Instead, they should report it to the local police station. The federal government has convened a meeting of the Narcotics Interdiction Committee to review the steps against the drug smugglers. The meeting, to be presided over by the secretary of the Narcotics Control Division, will be attended by the inspector generals of the police of all the four provinces, the chiefs of the federal civil armed forces, the director general of the customs and excise intelligence department of the Federal Investigation Agency, the director general of the Revenue Division, and the chairman of the Narcotics Control Board. Meanwhile, the task force set up under Major General Salahuddin Tirmizi of the Pakistani Army to assist in antinarcotics operations has also finalized its strategy.

An important source in Rawalpindi said that a decisive operation against the drug traffickers will be launched soon, leaving no scope for any big fish to escape. The

source added that the federal government's antinarcotics task force, the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board, the Pakistan Customs Department, the Pakistan Rangers, the Pakistan Coast Guard, the Frontier Corps, the Federal Investigation Agency, the Airport Security Force, the Frontier Constabulary, the provincial police and the provincial excise and taxation department have been alerted in connection with the operation against the drug mafia. Immigration officials at all airports of the country have also been given photos of notorious drug dealers. Immigration officials at airports have been directed to ensure that no drug baron leaves the country.

Haji Ayub Afridi, the alleged international drug trafficker, who is wanted in the United States in connection with a number of international litigations, has reportedly fled to Afghanistan with the alleged connivance of the political authorities of the Khyber Agency, leaving behind his fortress-like house in the tribal area, after the American drug enforcement agency in Pakistan was permitted to start the operation. Afridi is now reported to have been given shelter by some Afghan commanders. The government had already alerted the political authorities of the Khyber Agency to keep a close watch on Haji Ayub Afridi. Despite this, he succeeded in fleeing to Afghanistan by duping the political authorities. Sources say that Ayub Afridi spent his first night at the residence of the governor of Jalalabad. He has now reportedly moved to the mountainous regions around Kabul. He is being kept informed of the latest government operations against drug dealers in Pakistan through a sophisticated communication system.